

NFL: Pro-day cancellations changing draft prep [Back page](#)

MUSIC: Sam Hunt has trouble sharing [Page 33](#)

GAMES: Spring into best titles in Apple Arcade [Page 22](#)

EUROPE & PACIFIC WEEKEND EDITION

BOOKS
Alicia Keys' memoir hits all of the high and low notes [Page 34](#)



STARS AND STRIPES.®

[stripes.com](#)

Volume 78, No. 255 ©SS 2020

FRIDAY, APRIL 10, 2020

平成32年4月10日 第三種郵便物認可 日刊(土日除く)
発行所 星条旗新聞社 〒106-0032 東京都港区六本木7丁目23番17号 定価 ¥100

\$1.00

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Record 16.8M have sought jobless aid in US since virus

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With a startling 6.6 million people seeking unemployment benefits last week, the U.S. has reached a grim landmark: More than one in 10 workers have lost their jobs in just the past three weeks to the coronavirus outbreak.

The figures constitute the largest and fastest string of job losses in records dating to 1948. During the Great Recession it took 44 weeks for unemployment claims to go as high as they now have in less than a month.

The damage to job markets is extending across the world. The equivalent of 195 million full-time jobs could be lost in the second quarter due to business shutdowns caused by the viral outbreak, according to the United Nations' labor organization. It estimates that global unemployment will rise by 25 million this year.

SEE JOBLESS ON PAGE 9

RELATED

Modly's \$243K flight to Guam part of his undoing

[Page 4](#)

Pentagon says more infections are likely aboard Navy ships

[Page 4](#)

Go online to read the latest news on the virus outbreak

[stripes.com/coronavirus](#)



BALANCING ACT



Deanna Sonza spends time with her children at their home in Rothenstadt, Germany, in December. The Sonzas shipped their household goods shortly before a 60-day stop-movement put moving to their next duty station on hold, but said they've received help from friends and neighbors.

Quenberry Photography

Army weighs missions, family needs in Bavaria amid rising virus cases, stop-movement order

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWOEHR, Germany — Brittany Frias has put her home-based business on hold as she tends to her four young children on this sprawling Army base in rural Bavaria, while waiting for her husband's unexpectedly long deployment to Poland to end.

Staff Sgt. Chris Frias was supposed to be back Monday from a four-week deployment grading the Expert Infantry Badge test. But the delays and demands of ongoing training mean he'll be there longer.

The Friases are among the roughly 40,000 people within the U.S. Army Garrison Bavaria community, where the combination of climbing numbers of coronavirus cases off post and a 60-day worldwide Pentagon stop movement order have forced commands to make hard choices to balance service member and family needs with combat readiness.

Top: Army Pvt. Rapheal Bennett, of the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, asks health questions to a service member entering Rose Barracks in Vilseck, Germany, on March 18 as part of the military's coronavirus response.

SEE BALANCING ON PAGE 5

MARINUS RAUCHENBERGER/U.S. Army

BUSINESS/WEATHER

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel				
Germany	\$2.187	\$2.055	\$2.298	\$2.811	Azores	--	--	\$3.052
Change in price	-8.1 cents	-8.1 cents	-8.1 cents	-3.4 cents	Change in price	--	--	-4.0 cents
Netherlands	--	\$3.100	\$3.304	\$2.721	Belgium	--	\$2.834	\$2.086
Change in price	--	-11.9 cents	-12.0 cents	-3.8 cents	Change in price	--	No change	No change
U.K.	--	\$2.565	\$2.808	\$2.721	Turkey	--	\$2.699	\$2.612
Change in price	--	-8.1 cents	-8.1 cents	-3.8 cents	Change in price	--	-8.1 cents	-15.3 cents

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel				
Japan	--	\$2.689	--	-4.0 cents	South Korea	\$2.009	--	\$2.719
Change in price	--	-8.0 cents	--	-4.0 cents	Change in price	-8.0 cents	--	-8.0 cents
Okinawa	\$1.979	--	--	\$2.599	Guam	\$1.989**	\$2.459	\$2.699
Change in price	-8.0 cents	--	--	-4.0 cents	Change in price	-8.0 cents	-8.0 cents	--

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of April 10-16

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (April 10).....	\$1.06
Dollar buys (April 10).....	(60.8941)
British pound (April 10).....	\$1.22
Japanese yen (April 10).....	105.00
South Korean won (April 10).....	1,186.00
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar).....	0.3771
British pound.....	\$1.2474
Canada (Dollar).....	1.3992
China (Yuan).....	7.0421
Denmark (Krone).....	6.8283
Egypt (Pound).....	15.7853
Hong Kong (Dollar).....	\$1.0934/0.9146
Hungary (Forint).....	7.7534
Israel (Shekel).....	323.10
Japan (Yen).....	3.5714
Kuwait (Dinar).....	108.66
Norway (Krone).....	0.3117
Philippines (Peso).....	10.1815
Poland (Zloty).....	51.47
Saudi Arabia (Riyal).....	4.15
Singapore (Dollar).....	3.7597
South Korea (Won).....	1,210.93
Switzerland (Franc).....	0.9676
Thailand (Baht).....	\$2.73
Turkey (Lira).....	6.6560

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate.....	3.25
Discount rate.....	0.25
Federal funds market rate.....	0.05
3-month bill.....	0.20
30-year bond.....	1.36

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY IN THE MIDDLE EAST



FRIDAY IN EUROPE



SATURDAY IN THE PACIFIC



The weather is provided by the American Forces Network Weather Center, 2nd Weather Squadron at Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.

TODAY IN STRIPES

American Roundup.....	14
Classified.....	44
Comics.....	38, 42-43
Crossword.....	38, 42-43
Faces.....	39
Opinion.....	40-41
Sports.....	50-56
Weekend.....	17-38

STARS AND STRIPES

However you read us,
wherever you need us.

Mobile • Online • Print

EUROPE

ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

MIDDLE EAST

ADVERTISING

KRISTI KIMMEL

CustomerService@stripes.com

+49 (0) 0631.3615.9111
DSN: 314.583.9111

PACIFIC

ADVERTISING

ICHIRO
KATAYANAGI

PacificAdvertising@stripes.com

CML +81 (42) 552.2511 ext. 77313
DSN: 227.7313

PCSing? STARS AND STRIPES. RELOCATION GUIDE

Every Friday in the European and Pacific editions
of Stars and Stripes AND online daily at
www.stripes.com/relo



MILITARY

ISIS attacks Bagram Airfield amid Afghan lockdown

By PHILLIP WALTER WELLMAN
Stars and Stripes

KABUL, Afghanistan — Islamic State fired several rockets at Bagram Airfield on Thursday, the latest in a string of recent attacks targeting the largest U.S. base in Afghanistan.

Five rockets were launched from a Toyota Corona at the airfield shortly before 6 a.m., provincial authorities said.

"Foreign forces intercepted two of the rockets in the air, and the other three landed outside the base," said Wahida Shahkar, a spokeswoman for the governor of Parwan province, where the base is located.

No civilians or Afghan security force personnel were injured in the attack, she said.

Authorities found the burnt-out Corona abandoned in the Dasht-e-Sofyan area, several miles from the airfield, Shahkar said.

The U.S.-led NATO Resolute Support mission said that "there were no casualties or injuries" among foreign troops at Bagram, which is about 40 miles north of Kabul.

The Taliban quickly denied any involvement in the attack. Hours later, Islamic State-Khorasan claimed responsibility.

ISIS-K also carried out an attack against Bagram on March 21, in which nobody was injured.

That attack was one of at least four launched against the airfield last month, Parwan police chief Mohammad Mahfooz Alizaid said.

The Taliban considers ISIS-K an enemy and the two groups have fought each other on several occasions. However, Alizaid



Office of the Governor of Parwan Province

Afghan authorities said that a Toyota Corona parked several miles from Bagram Airfield was used in an attack on the base Thursday.

said he suspects the Taliban may have been behind the earlier Bagram attacks, but denied involvement to appear compliant with an agreement with the U.S., which could see all international troops pull out of Afghanistan by early next year.

Thursday's attack came as a lockdown continued in parts of

Afghanistan, including Parwan province and large cities like Kabul, to try to stem the spread of the coronavirus.

The attack was launched a day after the Afghan government released 100 Taliban prisoners. The move came after talks aimed at coordinating a prisoner swap with the Taliban collapsed. Af-

ghan government and Taliban officials had been meeting for days in Kabul to coordinate the release before the Taliban withdrew from the talks Tuesday, accusing the government of "wasting time."

The Afghan government is under immense pressure from the United States to move forward with peace talks with the

Taliban following the signing of a U.S.-Taliban peace deal in February. Talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban have already been delayed for weeks, setbacks that threaten to derail the fragile U.S.-Taliban peace agreement.

Zubair Babakarkhail and The Washington Post contributed to this report.

Army lacked consistency in evicting unlicensed day care providers

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — U.S. Army Hawaii and its private housing contractor did not have a "consistent, streamlined process" for evicting tenants operating an unauthorized home day care at the time that a 7-month-old girl died in Army housing early last year, an Army investigation found.

In the wake of Abigail Lobisch's drug overdose death on Feb. 24, 2019, at Aliamamu Military Reservation in Honolulu, U.S. Army Hawaii started a probe into how home-based child care was being administered on its installations, the prevalence of unauthorized day care and the policies dealing with unlicensed providers.

Allamamu is one of many communities in Hawaii operated as Island Palm Communities by the Australia-based Lendlease Corp. in conjunction with the U.S. Army.

"Unfortunately, the Garrison and [Island Palms Communities] to this point have not established a consistent, streamlined process for enforcing the termination of housing privileges for [unauthor-

ized child care] providers identified as repeat offenders," the probe concluded at its completion in June 2019.

U.S. Army Hawaii had declined to publicly issue the report, which Stars and Stripes reviewed Wednesday prior to the Army's impending release on its Freedom of Information website.

In anticipation of publication, Army Garrison Hawaii issued a news release Tuesday that touted improvements made in the past year to combat unauthorized day care facilities.

Those changes include updated procedures to streamline follow-up on reports of unauthorized child care, briefings for newly arriving soldiers and their families, creation of an electronic database to track alleged incidents of unauthorized day care and routing violation notice letters through battalion-level commanders before giving them to soldiers whose homes are the subject of allegations.

"The safety and security of those living and working on our installations remains our highest priority," Col. Thomas Barrett, commander of Army Garrison Hawaii, said in the news release.

"The findings, recommendations and actions taken from this investigation are key to that effort."

Abigail's mother, Anna Lobisch, expressed dismay at the timing of the news release in a Facebook post, writing, "I am not happy."

"I'll let all of you chime in and share your thoughts since we are in the middle of a pandemic and the military picked the perfect time to release all of this information with a PRESS RELEASE!" she wrote. Lobisch did not respond to an interview request by Stars and Stripes.

Absent from the 900-page investigation is a thorough examination of lapses and missteps by Army and housing officials involving the unauthorized day care in which Abigail died.

Last fall, a grand jury handed down a manslaughter indictment for Dixie Villa, the day care operator who was married to a Navy sailor at the time. She has pleaded not guilty and is free on \$200,000 bail.

The Honolulu Medical Examiner's Office determined that the girl died from a lethal amount of the over-the-counter drug diphenhydramine — roughly double the amount that has proven fatal in

other infant deaths.

The antihistamine, which is the active ingredient in the brand name drug Benadryl and over-the-counter sleep aids Sominex and Unisom, relieves allergy and cold symptoms but also induces sleep.

Katie Camario, who lived next door to the Villa home, made numerous reports to officials about the unauthorized day care, including photos, video and descriptions of unattended groups of children who sometimes chased each other with large sticks, a screaming child's head caught in playground equipment and a toddler sticking a barbecue butane lighter in his mouth.

She was not interviewed for the Army investigation.

Well over a year since Abigail died, Camario expressed enduring bewilderment over how no action had been taken to evict Villa from the military reservation.

"For over a year, I submitted report after report," she said. But after reading the lengthy investigation, she said that she is "left wondering how they could look at those reports of children sobbing outside unattended, playing with a lighter, then not push through

action to remove the adult in charge of those kids."

The investigation sidesteps the issue of accountability, she said.

"The Army says Abi's case raised questions about its regulation of unauthorized care, yet this investigation stops short of answering those very questions," she said. "It's still unknown what individual and/or policy directly failed to stop the unauthorized care occurring at my neighbor's home."

In a statement to Stars and Stripes, Army Garrison Hawaii said that the Honolulu Police Department was the lead agency in investigating Abigail's death.

"While the Army provided support as necessary, the Army investigation specifically excluded those events to avoid any interference with the HPD investigation," the statement said. "Instead, the Army investigation focused on the systems and processes currently in place for certifying, monitoring and regulating on-post child care as a whole. As this is an ongoing criminal matter, USAG-HI cannot comment on the details of the case."

olson.wyatt@stripes.com
Twitter: @WyattOlson

VIRUS OUTBREAK

More shipboard infections likely, Pentagon says

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Navy should expect more ships to have outbreaks of the coronavirus after more than 400 sailors aboard the USS Theodore Roosevelt contracted the illness, Gen. John Hyten, the vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Thursday.

"I think it's not a good idea to think that the Teddy Roosevelt as a one-of-a-kind issue. We have too many ships at sea, we have too many deployed capabilities. ... To think that it will never happen again is not a good way to plan," Hyten said during a news conference at the Pentagon.

Almost the entire 4,800-member crew of the aircraft carrier has been tested, with 3,170 sailors testing negative and 416 testing positive, Hyten said. Of the sailors who have the virus, 187 sailors had symptoms and 229 were asymptomatic.

One sailor has also been hospitalized in Guam and is in the intensive care unit, Hyten said. About 2,700 members of the crew are now off the ship and spread out across the island.

Medical teams check on them twice a day and sailors also have a buddy system to check on one another, Hyten said. The hospitalized sailor was found unconscious in the morning by a friend.

"Deep down, I was hoping that we would never get to the point — I was hoping that the numbers would be zero at the end of this but that's just not going to be the case with coronavirus," he said of the hospitalized sailor. "There's

‘To think that it will never happen again is not a good way to plan.’

Gen. John Hyten
vice chairman of Joint Chiefs of Staff

always going to be the one or two that that come in, even in our demographic. That happened for the first time this morning. So we're hoping that that sailor recovers."

Hyten also confirmed "a very small number of breakthroughs" of the coronavirus among the crew of the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier, which was expected to deploy this month. The ship is now in port in Bremerton, Wash.

The Navy now has to figure out how to plan the service's operations with the coronavirus in mind, Hyten said.

During a town hall meeting at the Pentagon afterward, Gen. Mark Milley, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, dissuaded people from believing the U.S. military was not ready to fight during the pandemic.

"I don't want anyone out there in the world thinking the United States military readiness has been heavily degraded. It has not," he said. "The Roosevelt we think ... if required in time of contingency planning, the TR would be ready. We could put that right back out to sea if needed."

Stars and Stripes staff writer Corey Dickinson contributed to this story. kenney.caitlin@stripes.com @caitlinmkenney



JULIO RIVERA/U.S. Navy

Sailors assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt move meals, ready to eat for shipmates who have tested negative for the coronavirus at Naval Base Guam on Tuesday.

Carrier sailor in intensive care

By CHAD GARLAND
Stars and Stripes

A sailor assigned to the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt was in intensive care Thursday after suffering complications from a coronavirus infection, the Navy said.

The sailor, who tested positive for the virus March 30, had been in a 14-day isolation period on Naval Base Guam before being taken to the base hospital, the service said in a statement.

"Deep down, I was hoping that we would never get to this point — I was hoping that the numbers would be zero at the end of this but that's just not going to be the case with coronavirus," Air Force Gen. John Hyten, vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Thursday during a news briefing at the Pentagon. "There's always going to be the one or two that that come in, even in our demographic. That happened for the first time this morning. So we're hoping that that sailor recovers."

Almost the entire 4,800-member crew of the Roosevelt has been tested, with 3,170 sailors testing negative and 416 sailors testing positive, Hyten said. Of the sailors who have the virus, 187 had symptoms and 229 were asymptomatic. The hospitalized sailor was found unconscious in the morning by a friend.

The outbreak on the Roosevelt caused it to divert to Guam on March 26. About 2,700 sailors had moved ashore as of Thursday, Hyten said. Over 1,230 of them had moved into hotel rooms to carry out a 14-day quarantine, the Navy had said earlier.

Medical teams check on crew members twice a day and sailors also have a buddy system to check on one another, Hyten said.

The ship has been at the center of controversy since Capt. Brett Crozier, the ship's skipper until last week, urged speedier evacuation of nearly its entire crew in a letter that was leaked to the media. The leaked letter led to Crozier's dismissal and the res-

ignation of acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly, who ordered the captain be fired.

Modly resigned Tuesday, the day after giving a speech in Guam to the crew and saying the captain was either "too naive or too stupid" to command, or was intentionally negligent in his handling of the memo.

Stars and Stripes staff writer Caitlin M. Kenney contributed to this story. garland.chad@stripes.com Twitter: @chadgarland

MILITARY DISCOUNTS
SPECIAL FARES WITH OUR PARTNERS

ABC
your TRAVEL SERVICE

in partnership with

AIRFRANCE
KLM
DELTA

MILITARY FLIGHTS

For all Military active, Reservist, Veterans and their family members:

Detroit	✈	from € 797
New York	✈	from € 696
Tampa	✈	from € 816
Washington	✈	from € 836

Other special prices possible from all other airports.

Hotline: +49 (0) 621-72920

internet@abctravel.de
www.abctravel.de

Flights from Jul. 24, 2020 to Aug. 3, 2020. RT to all german airports. Prices starting from, including all taxes, based on availability. Get Military discount fares all year! ABC Travel Service K.G., Gorkheimstr. 9, 68309 Mannheim

Navy secretary's Guam trip cost \$243K

By DAN LAMOTHE
The Washington Post

Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly boarded one of his service's executive jets Monday to visit Guam — a trip that turned out to be costly for both him and U.S. taxpayers.

For Modly, the visit resulted in his resignation, after he created an uproar by insulting the former commanding officer of the USS Theodore Roosevelt, who had raised concerns about how the Navy was handling a coronavirus outbreak on the warship.

For taxpayers, the cost of the flight alone was at least \$243,151.65, according to a Navy estimate.

The figure was based on 35 hours of flight time to and from

Guam, with refueling in Hawaii. Modly traveled on a C-37B at a cost of about \$6,946.19 per hour, according to the estimate, which was obtained by The Washington Post. The jet is a military version of the Gulfstream G550.

The detail emerged as the fallout from Modly's recent decisions continues. The drama began when he removed Navy Capt. Brett Crozier, the USS Theodore Roosevelt's captain. Last week, Crozier wrote a letter to Navy leaders requesting that 90% of his 4,800-sailor crew be temporarily removed from the ship in Guam to allow coronavirus testing and quarantining.

Modly boarded the flight to Guam after videos appeared online Friday showing sailors cheer-

ing Crozier as he left the ship.

Using the ship's loudspeaker, Modly told the crew that Crozier had either written the letter, which leaked to the San Francisco Chronicle last week, to create a public stir or was "too naive or too stupid" to command the ship.

The comments were recorded by sailors and also leaked, prompting calls for Modly's resignation from some Navy families and Democratic lawmakers. As of Wednesday, 286 members of the crew had tested positive for the virus. Crozier is among them.

The Navy's top officer, Adm. Mike Gilday, released a message to sailors Wednesday acknowledging that it has been a difficult week for the service.

"We will learn from them," he

said of the recent events. "But make no mistake, we are moving forward. The Navy has our orders and we are executing them."

Gilday, who is chief of naval operations, detailed some of the Navy's missions and said that remaining ready for them is a part of the service's job.

"Nobody sits the bench. Everyone must pull together," Gilday wrote. "And in this new environment of coronavirus, we're all learning, adapting, and improving by the hour. There is no better example of this than USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT — staring down an invisible enemy — dedicated in their efforts — making phenomenal progress, and providing lessons for the Navy and beyond."

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Balancing: Pandemic is affecting military families in different ways

FROM FRONT PAGE

Like many military spouses, Brittany Frias is juggling her 7-year-olds on online schooling while doing chores. She's also caring for her 14-month-old, while two others, ages 3 and 5, seek her attention and ask why they can't play with their friends.

Her husband's platoon sergeant and his family bring over supplies and take out the trash every four days. That's her support, Frias said, as she also plans for a move to their next duty station in mid-June, if it isn't delayed by coronavirus restrictions.

"I get looks at the grocery store when I bring all my kids ... it's very frustrating," Frias said. "The friends that we do have that I would trust my children with are not allowed to help right now."

Meanwhile, the group gatherings and activities that spouses have long relied on for support have stopped, as part of what appears to have been a mostly successful effort to contain the spread of the virus on post.

Locking down Bavaria

The Bavaria garrison includes Grafenwoehr and Vilseck, which form the largest training area the Army has in Europe. They're surrounded by miles of forests and two-lane, often unlit country roads. The nearest town of more than a few thousand people, Weiden, is about 30 minutes away.

The relative isolation may be working in the garrison's favor. Bavaria's 13 million people makes it Germany's second-most populous state, but it has the most confirmed coronavirus cases, with about 28,000 as of Thursday, the country's Robert Koch Institute reported. Its 635 deaths represent about 30% of all German fatalities.

The garrison has been largely spared.

As of March 26, there had been one confirmed case of COVID-19 in the Hohenfels community involving a civilian German employee. That same day, the Army garrison in Stuttgart, a major metropolitan area, had 58 cases. The Pentagon has told garrisons to stop announcing local numbers, so it's unclear whether the trend has continued. There have been confirmed cases at Tower Barracks in Grafenwoehr and Rose Barracks in Vilseck, garrison officials said.

The garrison took some of the strongest measures in Europe before case numbers in Bavaria spiked, however. It began taking precautions in February, and it restricted service members living on the installations from leaving post in most cases on March 17. A 7th Army Training Command memo also restricted essential travel to about 12 miles from home for those living off post.

"Clearly the biggest challenge is decreasing the risk of this virus to our communities," garrison commander Col. Adam Boyd said. "The coronavirus doesn't care what uniform you wear or what country you live in."

The garrison follows the guide-



BRITTANY FRIAS

Brittany Frias stands with her husband, Staff Sgt. Chris Frias, and their children at Legoland in Munich last May, during a trip for their oldest son's birthday.

lines that have since been issued throughout Europe, including screening for coronavirus symptoms at the gate. The post office sprays any of the roughly 6,500 mail receptacles that do not have mail in them with disinfectant daily, and screens its employees twice daily.

Social distancing is enforced and anyone entering buildings like the commissary or exchange is required to sanitize their hands, base spokesman Nathan Van Schaik said.

Family impact

Service members continue to train and deploy amid the restrictions. But the impact it can have on family members — some of whom have medical conditions that puts them at greater coronavirus risk — must now be factored into some missions.

When Sgt. Michael Espinosa, of the 2nd Cavalry Regiment's 1st Squadron, Comanche Troop, was told he was being sent to Stuttgart for 60 days to help check IDs at the gates, he asked if he could be tested for the coronavirus and quarantined when he got back to Vilseck.

His wife, Lexus, got pregnant again in January after suffering a ruptured fallopian tube and a miscarriage in December. She said that the miscarriage happened a week after the base clinic told her she wasn't pregnant. Her pregnancy is considered high-risk by her off-post German doctor.

After receiving the order to go to Stuttgart, Michael Espinosa went up the chain of command for help. His squadron commander canceled his movement after he consulted with medical officials, Michael Espinosa said.

"I told him that I was having to choose between my wife's health and a job I love to do," he said, re-

ferring to the discussion with his commander. "I understand, I love taking care of my family and the troops I work for."

Lexus Espinosa said that her husband remaining in Grafenwoehr isn't a matter of her being afraid to be alone during a pregnancy, which is a fact of life for a number of military spouses.

"Our first child, my husband was gone during that entire pregnancy and didn't come back till he was four months old," she said. "I am just really worried about him getting sick and then I could get something from him, since pregnant women are susceptible to this virus, on top of having so many problems."

Units at the garrison are also grappling with how best to take care of families who, under normal circumstances, would have moved on.

The Sonza family was ready for its permanent change of station March 17 when the stop-move-order was issued four days earlier.

"All our household goods had been shipped and our car was turned over to the vehicle processing center, so we had nothing left but our luggage," Deanna Sonza said.

The family had to break their lease prematurely and forfeited the deposit on their rental home, because of the uncertainty of when they'd leave. There's no plan for delivering their household goods to the home in Arizona where they signed a lease, she said. Meanwhile, they haven't been able to get their car in Germany back because of rules that hinder them from registering a vehicle after a final deregistration.

While it's been difficult, their command, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment's 3rd Squadron, Hammer Troop, has been "very helpful," while friends and neighbors, along with Army Community Service, have loaned them what they need to live.

"Our problems are inconveniences and there are many more people in worse situations ... This military life may be crazy, but I wouldn't change it one bit, because we've met lifelong friends along the way," Sonza said.

johnson.immanuel@stripes.com
Twitter: @Manny_Stripes

CHOOSE YOUR PATH TO EXCELLENCE



U.S. Army
Special Operations

VISIT GOARMYSOF.COM OR
TEXT STRIPES TO 462-769

VIRUS OUTBREAK

USAA: \$520M will be returned to clients

By JAMES BOLINGER

Stars and Stripes

USAA, a financial services and insurance company with a large military clientele, announced Wednesday it will return \$520 million to its members who are now driving less due to shelter-in-place procedures enacted to combat the coronavirus.

USAA, which serves more than

13 million active-duty military members, veterans and their families, said its customers will receive a 20% credit on two months of premiums in the coming weeks if they had an auto insurance policy in effect on March 31. USAA is one of several companies slashing premiums on auto insurance, including Allstate, Liberty Mutual and American Family Insurance.

USAA will not cancel mem-

bers' auto or property insurance policies or charge late fees on auto and property insurance coverage through June 17, according to the statement.

"We understand the impact this pandemic is having on our country, and especially our military community and their families, many of whom also are working on the front lines of the crisis," said USAA president and CEO

Wayne Peacock in the statement.

"Returning premiums provides timely help for our members," he said. "USAA has been facilitating the financial security of military members for nearly 100 years, and this is another way we can serve them well."

The decision to return funds to customers was based on data showing that USAA members are

driving less due to the pandemic.

No action is required by members who will automatically see the credit applied to their bill, the statement said.

Additionally, the company has enacted special payment arrangements to assist members experiencing financial difficulties.

bolinger.james@stripes.com
Twitter: @bolinger2004

Time running out to build new hospitals before peak

By CAITLIN M. KENNEY

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army Corps of Engineers is running out of time to build new hospitals across the country that could be needed during the peak of the coronavirus outbreak, the general in charge of the Corps said Wednesday.

The Corps of Engineers needs at least three weeks to build a medical facility, like the one at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center in New York City where 66 patients are now being treated, Lt. Gen. Todd Semonite, the commander of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, said during a telephone conference with reporters.

Some states are approaching dates that projections show could be when each one's coronavirus cases will reach a peak, stressing medical facilities. New York's peak is expected Thursday, New Jersey is Sunday, and Connecticut is predicted to be April 22, according to a report by NPR.

"What we used to have is a month to build this and maybe a week or two for a mayor to make a decision. I think that we will probably be done starting new builds probably in a week and that depends on what the curve is, but this is not just going to continue to play out," Semonite said about responding to the virus outbreak.

The Corps now has 17 medical facility projects in cities across the country, including the Javits Center, which will add more than 14,700 beds to treat patients amid the



MICHAEL MANGUSO, POOL, NJ ADVANCE MEDIA/AP

New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy tours the new Field Medical Station at the Meadowlands Exposition Center on April 2.

coronavirus outbreak. About \$1.6 billion has been approved for these projects.

There are 23 projects that are still pending a decision from mayors and governors on whether to move forward on construction. Some projects have been canceled due to local governments finding less need than anticipated, Semonite said.

Mayors and governors need to decide soon whether they will require an additional medical facility for patients.

"We'll continue to support this. I'm not going to say no. But at some given point this goes back to are you going to be able to get a facility done by the time you're max patients," Semonite said.

The Corps of Engineers has options if cities realize later they do need a hospital, he said.

"This is where it might not necessarily be exactly the facility you want... The next thing with the hotel concept it was a faster build — we can build it faster than a convention center," Semonite said. "Probably lower numbers [of beds], but if there is somewhere we need 200 or 300 [beds], we can go into a regular normal hotel on the side of an interstate and convert that a little bit faster."

Kenney.Caitlin@stripes.com
@caitlinmkenney

Wounded Warrior Project donating \$10M to veterans

By NIKKI WENTLING

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Wounded Warrior Project announced Thursday it would give \$10 million to veterans experiencing negative financial effects from the coronavirus pandemic.

The nonprofit started reaching out to its members — more than 100,000 veterans — to identify who might be in financial distress. Members in need will be able to apply for \$1,000 grants, intended to go toward groceries, utilities or housing.

Money will be distributed to the veterans with the most need until the money is exhausted.

Wounded Warrior Project's members, who have physical or mental injuries and illnesses related to their military service, are at greater risk of financial hardship, the nonprofit said.

"These are unprecedented times, and we must do all we can to meet the immediate financial needs of wounded warriors and their families," said retired Lt. Gen. Mike Linnington, the CEO of the organization.

Wounded Warrior Project urged corporations and foundations Thursday to match their \$10 million commitment in order to assist more veterans.

"We cannot do this alone, as the pandemic is greater than any one organization's ability to meet the vast demand," Linnington said. "We call on others to assist so we may help as many warriors and their families in crisis as possible in this difficult time."

Wentling.nikki@stripes.com
Twitter: @nikkiwentling

Army researchers start vaccine testing on primates in Md.

By NATHAN RIZ

The Baltimore Sun

BALTIMORE — Army researchers at Fort Detrick in Frederick began testing possible vaccines for the coronavirus on animals Monday, Department of Defense officials announced.

The United States Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases is performing the tests on "nonhuman primates," said Jonathan Hoffman, the department's assistant to the secretary of defense for public affairs, at a Pentagon press briefing Monday.

The Defense Department is

involved in five clinical vaccine trials while also supporting the efforts of other federal agencies, said Air Force Brig. Gen. Paul Friedrichs, Joint Staff surgeon.

"I think it's important for everyone to keep in mind that this is a process that is going as quickly as it can," Friedrichs said. "We're balancing, again, that risk of how do we make sure any vaccine candidates are safe?"

After the animal trials, the testing will move to a small group of people in hopes of expanding to a larger group, Friedrichs said. Citing Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy

and Infectious Diseases, and Dr. Deborah Birx, the White House's coronavirus response coordinator, Friedrichs noted that these efforts don't guarantee a vaccine in the near future.

"Only when we know that they are both safe and effective will we be able to offer them more widely to larger numbers," Friedrichs said. "We're making progress on those. I don't want to create a false expectation, though, that a vaccine is right around the corner."

"As has been briefed by Dr. Fauci and Dr. Birx and many others, we are still months away, not weeks away, from a vaccine."



OLIVIER DOULIERE, APACA PRESS/NTS

The U.S. Army Medical Research Institute for Infectious Diseases has begun testing vaccines on primates in Fort Detrick, Md.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Federal stocks of protective equipment nearly depleted

By MICHAEL BIESECKER
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Strategic National Stockpile is nearly out of the N95 respirators, surgical masks, face shields, gowns and other medical supplies desperately needed to protect frontline medical workers treating coronavirus patients.

The Department of Health and Human Services told The Associated Press on Wednesday that the federal stockpile was in the process of deploying all remaining personal protective equipment in its inventory.

The HHS statement confirms federal documents released Wednesday by the House Oversight and Reform Committee, showing that about 90% of the personal protective equipment in the stockpile has been distributed to state and local governments. HHS spokeswoman Katie McKeogh said that the remaining 10% will be kept in reserve to support federal response efforts.

House Oversight Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney, D-N.Y., said in a statement that the Trump administration is leaving states to scour the open market for scarce supplies, often competing with each other and federal agencies in a chaotic bidding war that drives

up prices.

"The President failed to bring in FEMA (the Federal Emergency Management Agency) early on, failed to name a national commander for this crisis and failed to fully utilize the authorities Congress gave him under the Defense Production Act to procure and manage the distribution of critical supplies," Maloney said. "He must take action now to address these deficiencies."

For the last month, health care workers across the nation have taken to social media to illustrate the shortages by taking selfies wearing home-sewn masks on their faces and trash bags over their scrubs.

President Donald Trump has faulted the states for not better preparing for the pandemic and has said that they should only be relying on the federal stockpile as a last resort.

The AP reported Sunday that the Trump administration squandered nearly two months after the early January warnings that COVID-19 might ignite a global pandemic, waiting until mid-March to place bulk orders of N95 masks and other medical supplies needed to build up the stockpile. By then, hospitals in several states were treating thousands of infected patients without



JONATHAN LANE, AIR NATIONAL GUARD/AP

Airmen from the 146th Airlift Wing of the California Air National Guard in Oxnard, Calif., deliver 200 ventilators to the New York Air National Guard's 105th Airlift wing at Stewart Air National Guard Base, adjacent to Newburgh, N.Y.

adequate equipment and were pleading for help.

At the start of the COVID-19 crisis, the federal stockpile had about 13 million N95 respirators, masks which filter out about 95% of all liquid or airborne particles and are critical to prevent health care workers from becoming infected. That's just a small fraction of what hospitals need to protect their workers, who would nor-

mally wear a new mask for each patient, but who now are often issued only one to last for days.

Federal contracting records showed that HHS made an initial bulk order of N95 masks on March 12, followed by larger orders on March 21. But those contracts won't yield big deliveries to the national stockpile until the end of April, after the White House has projected the pandem-

ic will reach its peak.

Asked about the AP report, the president suggested Sunday that the states should be thankful for the shipments of supplies they have gotten.

"FEMA, the military, what they've done is a miracle," Trump said. "What they've done is a miracle in getting all of this stuff. What they have done for states is incredible."

Career **CENTER**

Are you in the picture?



Reading Stars and Stripes gives you a better handle on issues that affect you most.
No one covers the bases the way we do.

STARS AND STRIPES

In print • Online at stripes.com • Mobile for Android, iPhone & iPad



Troops to Teachers is a military career transition program that helps eligible members of the armed forces begin new careers as K-12 school teachers in public, charter, and Bureau of Indian Affairs schools. Skills acquired in the military like leadership, initiative, discipline, integrity, and the ability to thrive in an ever-changing environment are a natural fit for the classroom.

Apply at proudtoserveagain.com.
Become a part of the Texas teaching family.

Contact us at texastroopstoteachers.org
or 800-810-5484.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Marines on Okinawa start a 3D printing juggernaut

By MATTHEW M. BURKE

Stars and Stripes

CAMP KINSER, Okinawa — Armed with a cache of warehouse 3D printers and spools of orange thermoplastic, Marines have waged war against the coronavirus by turning out thousands of frames for face masks and face shields for use on Okinawa.

The III Marine Expeditionary Force's 3rd Maintenance Battalion has 17 3D printers in a Camp Kinser warehouse "factory" running 24 hours a day to provide medical personnel with vital supplies and alleviate pressure on the supply chain as the virus gains a foothold on Okinawa.

As of Wednesday, the island had 40 confirmed cases of coronavirus, not including three at Kadena Air Base, according to the Okinawa Times newspaper.

Since March 30, the Marines have printed 5,000 face mask frames as well as 800 face shield frames for medical personnel at Naval Hospital Okinawa, and guards taking the temperatures of motorists as they approach the gates at Okinawa's military installation.

"This is what we train for no matter what the enemy is," Chief

Warrant Officer 4 Sean Flores said at the Kinser warehouse Wednesday. Flores is the III MEF utilities and innovation officer.

"Everyone is stepping up," he said. "It's infectious to see others around you making a difference and knowing that you're contributing to the fight no matter what your roles or responsibilities are. I think the importance of training and thinking outside the box has led us to this, and it's truly paid dividends."

Marine officials on Okinawa began discussing the need for personal protective equipment 48 hours before they started printing on March 30 — a week before Defense Secretary Mark Esper ordered masks be worn on military installations around the world — Flores said. They began looking at available designs online and talking to Marines in the 3D printing community.

"We were actually able to be a little bit proactive on this whole deal because we could see the trends stateside and saw there was going to be a shortage," said battalion shop foreman Staff Sgt. Quincy Reynolds. "A whole bunch of us got together and we said, 'Hey, what can we do? How can we attack this?'"

The Marines at Kinser were about to kick off a series of technology courses that involved 3D printing with Building Momentum, a Virginia-based, veteran-owned small business that specializes in technology training programs. Their "Innovation Boot Camp" was canceled due to the coronavirus, but Marines like Reynolds saw the potential in the 24 Creality Ender 3 Pro 3D printers stacked unopened against the warehouse wall.

"We were lucky enough to have the printers on hand," he said.

With the blessing of Building Momentum, the battalion put its LulzBot TAZ 6 3D printers to the side and opened the Ender 3 printers, as well as spool after spool of orange polylactic acid filament, Reynolds said.

After six Marines built the printers in a marathon session, they kept 17 at Kinser and deployed the other seven around the island, including the Marine Corps' second "factory" with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The maintenance battalion was charged initially with making the face masks and the logistics squadron was tasked with the face shields, Flores said.



MATTHEW M. BURKE/Stars and Stripes

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Sean Flores of the III Marine Expeditionary Force shows off face mask and face shield frames that were 3D printed at Camp Kinser, Okinawa, on Wednesday.

Two Marines from 3rd Maintenance Battalion have worked around the clock in six-hour shifts for more than a week now keeping the printers humming, said shift supervisor Sgt. Craig Hill.

The face shields were made in several varieties and head sizes. The one-size-fits-all face mask frames can be combined with any cloth to make a functioning face mask.

The Marines also produced face mask clips that alleviate pressure on the ears of first responders.

Hundreds of face mask frames are already in use by Naval Hospital Okinawa staff.

"The naval hospital is ecstatic," Flores said. "They're nervous about resources, trying to hold on to what they have. They're on the front line of this problem, so [we'll do] whatever we can to sup-

port them."

The Marines are already looking to procure a softer material for the face shield frames and to produce other in-demand medical supplies. They will work until they have exhausted all 180 rolls of filament.

Flores said it was amazing to see the military community on the island coming together to combat the virus.

"It never ceases to amaze me how a crisis brings Marines and innovators and individuals together, everybody collaborating and feeling like they're doing something, which is critical," he said. "Against any adversary we can come together and get after the root of the problem and try to fix problems upstream."

burke.matt@stripes.com
Twitter: @MatthewMBurke1

Volunteers adapt troop care packages to the times

By J.P. LAWRENCE

Stars and Stripes

Care packages for deployed troops, often filled with items like cookies and cards, will feature something new in response to a worldwide pandemic: face masks.

Volunteers for Soldiers' Angels, a charity based out of San Antonio, sewed face masks to put in care packages to send to service members overseas Wednesday night.

The organization bought yards of fabric to sew face masks after a Pentagon directive Sunday required troops to cover their faces if they cannot maintain social distancing standards.

"We are going to be sending masks, as well as sanitizer that is being donated by distilleries around the country," said Amy Palmer, CEO of Soldiers' Angels.

These packages should be on the way to troops in Afghanistan by the end of the week, Palmer said, adding that these shipments will also include Girl Scout cookies.

Soldier's Angels, like other organizations that send care packages to deployed service members, has adapted to the coronavirus pandemic. Many workers and volunteers for these organizations are older and at greater risk of dying if infected.

Volunteers have been instructed not to go to the grocery store to buy supplies for care packages if it's too risky, Palmer said.

The organization, like many other companies across America, has moved to minimal staffing to reduce the chances of infection. The number of boxes sent to troops overseas dipped from around 21,000 in February to about 16,000 in March,



MICHELLE JULAZADEH CHAVARIN/Soldiers' Angels

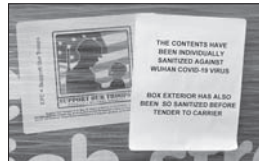
A volunteer for Soldiers' Angels, a charity based out of San Antonio, sews a face mask to send in a care package for deployed service members Wednesday.

Palmer said, although the company sent thousands of care packages last month to troops, families and first responders in the United States.

Charities such as the Maryland-based Operation We Care and the New Jersey-based American Recreational Military

Services have stopped care package operations altogether to protect their volunteers, representatives for the groups said.

Operation Shoebox, based out of Bellevue, Fla., also stopped sending care packages overseas, but has switched to sewing cloth masks for local health care



MARTIN BOIRE/Support Our Troops

A sticker on a care package for deployed service members touts sanitation efforts.

workers, said Katie Harper, a spokeswoman for the group.

Other organizations, such as American Legion posts in Bethlehem, Conn., and Tulsa, Okla., as well as Soldiers' Angels, have also begun sewing masks for health care workers and troops in the U.S. responding to the crisis.

It is inspirational that people have continued to donate for care packages, even in the midst of a pandemic, said Martin Boire, president of Support Our Troops. The Tampa, Fla.-based charity is still sending care packages to troops in Afghanistan and Iraq, with workers for Support Our Troops sanitizing every item that goes in its care packages.

"(Support Our Troops) continues to receive goods and donations even during this difficult period, a testimony to the goodwill Americans have for their service members," Boire said.

lawrence.jp@stripes.com
Twitter: @jplawrence3

VIRUS OUTBREAK



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

A resident copies down the Mississippi unemployment benefit website after being unable to enter the state WIN Job Center in north Jackson, Miss., earlier this month.

Jobless: More cuts are expected

FROM FRONT PAGE

The numbers don't count workers on reduced hours and pay. Lockdown measures are affecting nearly 2.7 billion workers — about 81% of the global workforce — the agency said.

In the U.S., the job market is quickly unraveling as businesses have shut down across the country. All told, in the past three weeks, 16.8 million Americans have filed for unemployment aid. The surge of jobless claims has overwhelmed state unemployment offices around the country. And still more job cuts are expected.

More than 20 million people could lose jobs this month. The unemployment rate could hit 15% when the April employment report is released in early May.

"The carnage in the American labor market continued unabated," said Joseph Brusuelas, chief economist for RSM, a tax advisory firm.

The viral outbreak is believed to have erased nearly one-third of the U.S. economy's output in the current quarter. Forty-eight states have closed nonessential businesses.

A nation of normally free-spirited shoppers and travelers is mainly hunkered down at home, bringing entire gears of the economy to a near-halt. Non-grocery retail business plunged 97% in the last week of March compared with a year earlier, according to Morgan Stanley. The number of airline passengers screened by the Transportation Security Administration has plunged 95% from a year ago. U.S. hotel revenue has tumbled 80%.

Applications for unemployment benefits are a rough proxy for layoffs because only people who have lost a job through no fault of their own are eligible.

The wave of layoffs may be cresting in some states even

while still surging in others. Last week, applications for jobless aid declined in 19 states. In California, they dropped nearly 13% to 925,000 — still a shockingly high figure. In Pennsylvania, they dropped by nearly one-third to 284,000. That's still more than the entire nation experienced just four weeks ago.

By contrast, in Georgia, which issued shutdown orders later than most other states, filings for unemployment claims nearly tripled last week to 388,000. In Arkansas, they more than doubled. In Arizona, they jumped by nearly 50%.

On Thursday, the Federal Reserve intensified its efforts to bolster the economy with a series of lending programs that could inject up to \$2.3 trillion into the economy. Chairman Jerome Powell said that the economy's strength before the viral outbreak means it could rebound quickly in the second half of the year.

"There is every reason to believe that the economic rebound, when it comes, will be robust," Powell said.

In many European countries, government programs are keeping people on payrolls, though typically with fewer hours and lower pay. In France, 5.8 million people — about a quarter of the private sector workforce — are now on a "partial unemployment" plan. With government help, they receive part of their wages while temporarily laid off or while working shorter hours.

A similar system is in place in Germany, where the federal labor agency says 650,000 companies have registered to put people in the short-time work program and so still on payrolls. That's up from 470,000 about 10 days earlier.

In both countries, such workers aren't counted in unemployment figures but will likely still suffer a drop in income.

Because the U.S. government-mandated business shutdowns

that are meant to defeat the virus have never brought the American economy to such a sudden and violent standstill, economists are struggling to assess the duration and severity of the damage.

"We're just throwing out our textbooks," said Beth Ann Bovino, chief U.S. economist at S&P Global Ratings.

The Penn Wharton Budget Model, created at the University of Pennsylvania's business school, projects that the U.S. economy will shrink at an astonishing 30% annual rate in the April-June quarter — even including the government's new \$2.2 trillion relief measure, the largest federal aid package in history by far. An economic contraction of that scale would be the largest quarterly plunge since World War II.

A key aspect of the rescue package is a \$350 billion small business loan program that is intended to forestall layoffs. Small companies can borrow enough to cover payroll and other costs for eight weeks. And the loans will be forgiven if small businesses keep or rehire their staffs. The Treasury Department has begun to roll out the loans to mixed results. Many small businesses have had trouble accessing loan applications, and many economists say the \$350 billion is insufficient. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has said he will seek an additional \$250 billion for the program from Congress.

The rescue package also added \$600 a week in unemployment benefits, on top of what recipients receive from their states. This will enable many lower-income workers to manage their expenses and even increase their purchasing power and support the economy. It also makes many more people eligible for jobless aid, including the self-employed, contractors, and so-called "gig economy" workers such as Uber and Lyft drivers.

Democrats stall \$250B business relief package

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Democrats on Thursday stalled President Donald Trump's request for \$250 billion to supplement a "paycheck protection" program for businesses crippled by the coronavirus outbreak, demanding protections for minority-owned businesses and money for health care providers and state and local governments.

They sidetracked a request by Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., to give the unanimous consent necessary to fast-track Trump's request.

"We need more funding and we need it fast," McConnell said as he opened the Senate, assuring them there would be future bills to deal with other issues.

Democrats' demands sparked a spirited response from McConnell, who implored them not to block "emergency aid you do not even oppose just because you want something more."

"Nobody thinks this will be the Senate's last word on COVID-19. We don't have to do everything right now," McConnell said. "Let's continue to work together, with speed and bipartisanship. We will get through this crisis together."

Thursday's development doesn't mean the legislation is dead. Democrats and Republicans agree the aid is urgently needed. The dispute is over billions more Democrats want to add to the legislation.

McConnell and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin say the business program, which involves direct subsidies to companies to keep employees on payroll and pay their rent, is on track to quickly deplete its first \$350 billion infusion as businesses rush to apply for the aid.

Sen. Chris Van Hollen, D-Md., accused McConnell of trying to ram through legislation without trying to create the consensus needed to pass a bill into law in the current environment. He detailed a variety of glitches in the program and fears that many big lenders are not serving minority neighborhoods and nontraditional borrowers.

Van Hollen said McConnell "knew full well that there was no agreement and consensus on moving forward with this proposal. That's why we're here today. This was in fact designed to fail, designed as a political stunt."

Democrats' requests, like aid to states and hospitals, mirror programs that are already funded, but the money is flowing more slowly.

McConnell said Democrats are trying "to use this crucial program to open broader negotiations on other topics, including parts of the CARES Act where literally no money has gone out the door yet."

The future of the legislation is likely to be largely determined by a small, familiar group of senior Washington hands, including House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, McConnell and Mnuchin, along with Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

In interviews, Pelosi, D-Calif., has stressed making sure the popular paycheck protection program, part of the \$2.2 trillion economic aid package Congress passed in March, delivers benefits to businesses in minority communities that are often under-served by traditional lenders.

Democrats are pressing for half of the White House request, or \$125 billion, to be channeled through community-based financial institutions that serve farmers, family, women, minority and veteran-owned small businesses and nonprofits in rural, tribal, suburban and urban communities.

"Democrats are prepared to give the resources, provided the money is going to get to the intended recipients," said Sen. Ben Cardin, D-Md., in an interview with a pool reporter who shared the remarks. "There seems to be an understanding that you have to empower the minority institutions in order for that to happen."

They circulated a \$500 billion plan that would add \$100 billion for hospitals and other health care providers and \$150 billion to state and local governments, as well as a 15% boost in food stamp benefits. They hope this serves as a basis for talks with McConnell going forward.

Pelosi said McConnell's request "simply can't" advance through the Democratic-controlled House under unanimous consent. There's also lone wolf Republican Thomas Massie of Kentucky, who promises to block efforts to pass such huge legislation without lawmakers present and ready to vote.

The government is just beginning to implement three previously passed bills to respond to the unprecedented coronavirus outbreak, which has caused grave damage to the economy in addition to the personal toll.

The massive infusions of federal cash are intended as a patch to help the \$21 trillion U.S. economy toughen the current recession, which is causing an economic contraction and spike in joblessness.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Warnings multiply as Easter holiday nears

Associated Press

BERLIN — As the Easter holiday approaches, world leaders and health officials are fervently warning that hard-won gains in the fight against the coronavirus must not be jeopardized by relaxing social distancing.

A spike in deaths in Britain and New York and surges of reported new infections in Japan and in India's congested cities make it clear the battle is far from over.

Dr. Anthony Fauci, the top American infectious diseases expert, said the pandemic will demand permanent changes in people's behavior until a vaccine is developed. He said everyone should be constantly washing their hands and those sick should not go to school or work.

"Don't anybody ever shake hands again," he said. "I mean, it sounds crazy, but that's the way it's really got to be until we get to a point where we know the population is protected."

He also shot down hopes that warmer spring weather would bring an end to the crisis.

"One should not assume that we are going to be rescued by a change in the weather," he said Thursday. "You must assume that the virus will continue to do its thing."

The U.S. has by far the most confirmed infections with over 430,000, three times the number of the next three countries combined. New York state on Wednesday recorded its highest one-day increase in deaths, 779, for an overall death toll of almost 6,300. New York has more than 40% of the U.S. death total of around 15,000.

"We are flattening the curve because we are rigorous about social distancing," New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo said. "But it's not a time to be complacent." German Health Minister Jens Spahn cautioned that the positive trend in fewer new infections "must be cemented."

"It is right to remain consistent over Easter," he told the Handelsblatt newspaper Thursday. "Even if it is difficult in this weather, we should stay home and refrain from family visits so that the infection



ARIEL SCHALIT/AP

A priest peers from a window in the door of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, a place where Christians believe Jesus Christ was buried, just before Archbishop Pierbattista Pizzaballa arrives amid a lockdown during Holy Thursday in Jerusalem's old city.

curve does not rise again."

Chancellor Angela Merkel emphasized that "even short trips inside Germany, to the seaside or the mountains or relatives, can't happen over Easter this year."

New Zealand police warned people not to drive to holiday homes over Easter or risk arrest, while Lithuania was imposing a lockdown on major cities over the holiday.

Portugal halted commercial flights at the country's five international airports and set up checkpoints on major roads and junctions to stop Easter visits. Additional restrictions came into force Thursday for the next four days, including a ban on people leaving their local areas and on gatherings of more than five people.

Greece also tightened restrictions ahead of next week's Orthodox Easter, increasing police roadblocks along highways, doubling fines for lockdown viola-

tions and banning travel between islands.

Swiss police were setting roadblocks at the Gotthard tunnel, seeking to dissuade drivers from heading to the Italian-speaking Ticino region, the only part of Switzerland south of the Alps and one of the worst-hit by the pandemic.

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei suggested mass gatherings may be barred through the holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan, which runs from late April through most of May.

Khamenei urged Shiite faithful to pray at home instead. Shiites typically pray together and communities often share meals, especially during Ramadan. Iran has reported over 66,000 infections and over 4,100 deaths, although experts suspect those numbers underreport the country's outbreak.

Indonesia's president banned

civil servants, police officers, military personnel and employees of state-owned companies from returning to their hometowns to celebrate the end of Ramadan. The annual mass exodus usually involves tens of millions of Indonesians crisscrossing the archipelago of 17,000 islands.

Britain's Prime Minister Boris Johnson spent a third night in intensive care with COVID-19 infection, where his spokesman said Thursday he "continues to improve." Johnson is receiving oxygen but is not on a ventilator. Britain posted its highest death toll in a single day Wednesday, with 938 virus-related deaths.

Japan reported more than 500 new cases for the first time Thursday, a worrisome rise since it has the world's oldest population and COVID-19 can be especially serious in the elderly.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has declared a state of emergency, but not a lockdown, in Tokyo and

six other prefectures. Companies in the world's third-largest economy have been slow to embrace working from home and Abe appears concerned about keeping the economy going. Many commuters jammed Tokyo's streets as usual Thursday.

But Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike said the city cannot delay non-essential business shutdowns for two more weeks like Abe's government has proposed.

"The spread of the infections is so fast in Tokyo that we cannot wait that long," she said.

India, whose 1.3 billion people are under a lockdown until next week, has sealed off dozens of hot spots in and around New Delhi, the capital. It will supply residents with food and medicine but not allow them to leave. The number of confirmed cases exceeds 5,000, with 166 deaths.

New infections, hospitalizations and deaths have been leveling off in hard-hit Italy and Spain, which together have more than 32,000 deaths, but the daily tolls are still shocking. Spain reported 683 more deaths Thursday, bringing its total to 15,238.

The latest figures were released as Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez appeared before parliament to ask for a second two-week extension of a state of emergency. Sanchez acknowledged authorities were caught off guard by the crisis and failed to provide hospitals with critical supplies, including virus tests and protective clothing for medical workers.

"Europe reacted late. All of the West reacted late, and Spain is no exception," Sanchez said.

Worldwide, the number of confirmed COVID-19 cases has climbed to nearly 1.5 million, with nearly 90,000 deaths, according to Johns Hopkins University. The true numbers are much higher, because of limited testing, different rules for counting the dead and the efforts of some governments to conceal the extent of their outbreaks.

For most, the virus causes mild to moderate symptoms like fever and cough. But for some, especially older adults and the infirm, it can cause pneumonia and death.

Dubai allows alcohol home delivery as virus shuts down bars

Associated Press

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates — The Champagne corks no longer pop at Dubai's infamous alcohol-soaked brunches. The blaring flat-screen televisions stand silent in the sheikhdom's sports bars. And the city-state's pubs have shrink-wrapped their now-idle beer taps.

This skyscraper-studded desert metropolis on the Arabian Peninsula has long been one of the wettest places in the Mideast in terms of alcohol consumption, its bars and licensed restaurants

serving tourists, travelers and its vast population of foreign workers.

Up until the global coronavirus pandemic, that is. With the virus now threatening a crucial source of tax and general revenue for its rulers, Dubai's two major alcohol distributors have partnered to offer home delivery of beer, spirits and wine, yet another loosening of social mores in this Islamic city-state.

"Luxury hotels and bars have been the (worst) impacted within the sector and this had a direct impact on the alcohol consump-

tion ... in the United Arab Emirates," said Rabia Yasmeen, an analyst for market research firm Euromonitor International.

Maritime and Mercantile International, a subsidiary of the government-owned Emirates airline known as MMI, and African & Eastern partnered to create the website offering home delivery. Its products range from a \$530 bottle of Don Julio 1942 Tequila to a \$4.30 bottle of Indian blended whiskey, with beers and wines in between.

Their website legalhomeelivery.com, a nod toward the online

bootleggers long operating in the gray margins of Dubai, describes the service as needed "in these unprecedented times."

Tourists, the few remaining here, can use their passports to buy the alcohol. Residents, however, need an alcohol license, a plastic red card issued by Dubai police that requires annual renewal. Only non-Muslims 21 and older can apply for a license — though bartenders across the city never check for them before pouring drinks.

Text-message alerts give imbibers a predicted delivery time

within a few hours, though a crew showed up some six hours early for one delivery Tuesday, wearing masks and disposable gloves.

Officials at African & Eastern, a private company believed to be at least partially held by the state or affiliated firms, and MMI both acknowledged that the pandemic will likely affect their revenues for the year.

Most of their physical stores also remain open, though Dubai now is under a 24-hour lockdown that requires the public to have police permission to go to the grocery store.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Pets proving to be a source of comfort in crisis

By ALICIA RANCILLO

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Ufuoma George decided to adopt a dog for company when New Yorkers and millions around the world took to their homes in the coronavirus outbreak.

In short order, 3-month-old Lala the black Labrador retriever became more. She became support at a time when some people are doing good things for people they don't know.

"Being alone at home kind of is hard, but with a pet you have someone to take care of, someone to play with you, someone to greet you in the morning, so it's kind of like really calming and comforting during this time," George said.

Whether it's a dog, cat or even hedgehog named Quillie Nelson, pets are proving themselves to be just what the doctor ordered in lockdown. They include the newly adopted and fostered like rambunctious Lala, as humans have flooded shelters for pets to fill their extra hours at home.

Laura Evans and her husband and their three kids in Bethesda, Md., brought 12-week-old Zoe home after the pandemic hit. The squirmy Yorkshire terrier needs constant attention, and they're happy to oblige.

"We wanted to bring a little light and life to our house," Evans said. "She's a cuddly work, home-work sidekick. Everyone wants to



RACHAEL PAVLIK/AP

Pet hedgehog Quillie Nelson is held by her owner, Rachael Pavlik, in Sugar Land, Texas.

hang with her."

Nancy Karan said that her pet Shadow gets her out of her New York apartment for quality time with her fellow dog walkers, at a safe distance. They sleep together at night "because it's very comforting just to have his body on my bed."

In Houston, Quillie Nelson and other pets are serving to maintain routines for Rachael Pavlik, her husband and two teens.

"I think having pets during a scary time like this is good for the whole family," Pavlik said. "It's good for the kids to have a sense of normalcy and a sense of responsibility, like they have to get out of bed before noon to feed their animals."

Kitty Block, president and CEO

of the Humane Society of the United States, urged more people to foster and adopt as the health crisis worsens.

"It frees up space in the shelter to take these animals in that may be displaced because their family member, their owner is ill or financially in a troubled situation," she said.

While many people seek comfort, some frustrations have surfaced with all the 24/7 togetherness. Professional dog trainer Nicole Ellis in Los Angeles, of the service Rover.com, said that owners should make a conscious effort to tire out their animals before a Zoom meeting or important phone call.

"We can't blame them if they're like, 'I'm bored! I'm bored!'" and



RACHAEL PAVLIK/AP

The Pavlik family, Matthew, Rachael, their son Henry, hedgehog Quillie Nelson and German shorthair pointer Mudge, poses for a photo in their home in Sugar Land, Texas.

they haven't done anything all day. It's not their fault," she said.

That doesn't seem to be a problem for Squiggles, a bearded dragon in South Orange, N.J. Dan Cohen's 13-year-old daughter, Julia, has survived with help from her chill lizard, who has her own emotional support vest and tiny mask.

"We don't want her catching coronavirus," he joked of their unusual pet.

Spooling pets has made some needer than ever.

Simran Sandhu in London said that her two dogs, Leo and Tyson, are "loving the attention," but their routines and patterns have gone out the window.

Pandemic deals blow to plastic bag bans, overall plastic reduction

By GILLIAN FLACCUS

Associated Press

PORTLAND, Ore. — Just weeks ago, cities and even states across the U.S. were busy banning straws, limiting takeout containers and mandating that shoppers bring reusable bags or pay a small fee as the movement to eliminate single-use plastics took hold in mainstream America.

What a difference a pandemic makes.

In a matter of days, hard-won bans to reduce the use of plastics — and particularly plastic shopping sacks — across the U.S. have come under fire amid worries about the virus clinging to reusable bags, cups and straws.

Governors in Massachusetts and Illinois have banned or strongly discouraged the use of reusable grocery bags. Oregon suspended its brand-new ban on plastic bags this week, and cities from Bellingham, Wash., to Albuquerque, N.M., have announced a hiatus on plastic bag bans as the coronavirus rages.

"Add to that a rise in takeout and a ban on reusable cups and straws at the few coffee stores that remain open, and environmentalists are worried that COVID-19 could set back their efforts to tackle plastic pollution for years.

"People are scared for their lives, their livelihood, the economy, feeding their loved ones, so



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

Glen Quadros, right, owner of the Great American Diner & Bar, checks a takeout order last week as cook Arturo Aguilar looks on in Seattle. Weeks ago, cities were banning straws, limiting takeout containers and mandating reusable bags for groceries. Coronavirus fears have led to calls to end plastic bag fees and bans.

the environment is taking a back seat," said Glen Quadros, owner of the Great American Diner & Bar in Seattle.

Quadros has laid off 15 employees and seen a 60% decline in business since Seattle all but shut down to slow the pandemic. For now, he's using biodegradable containers for takeout and delivery, but those products cost up to three times more than plastic

— and they're getting hard to find because of the surge in takeout, he said.

The plastics industry has seized the moment and is lobbying hard to overturn bans on single-use plastics by arguing that disposable plastics are the safest option amid the crisis. California, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Maine, New York, Oregon and Vermont have statewide bans on

plastic bags, and Oregon and California have laws limiting the use of plastic straws.

New York's statewide plastic bag ban is on hold because of a lawsuit.

The Plastics Industry Association recently sent a letter to Alex Azar, head of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and asked him to speak out against plastic bag bans because they put consumers and workers at risk. And the American Recyclable Plastic Bag Alliance is doubling down on its opposition to plastic bag bans under a preexisting campaign titled Bag the Ban. Grocery worker unions, too, have joined the chorus. The union that represents Oregon supermarket workers is lobbying for a ban on reusable bags, and a Chicago union called for an "end to the disease-transmitting bag tax."

Critics have argued that people with reusable bags don't regularly wash them.

"If those bags coming into the store are contaminated with anything, they get put on the conveyor belt or the counter, and you're putting yourself in a bad spot," said Matt Seaholm, executive director of the American Recyclable Plastic Bag Alliance. "It's an unnecessary risk."

A study by the U.S. National Institutes of Health found that the coronavirus can remain on

plastics and stainless steel for up to three days, and on cardboard for up to one day. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention said that it appears possible for a person to get COVID-19 by touching a surface that has the virus on it and then touching their mouth, nose or eyes — but it's not thought that's the main way the virus spreads.

More studies are needed to fully assess the dangers posed by reusable bags, which are mostly made of fabric, said Dr. Jennifer Vines, lead health officer for the Portland metropolitan area.

"It's not clear that a virus that you can find on a surface — whether it's cloth or something else — is viable and can actually make you sick," she said.

Environmental groups, well aware of the nation's current priorities, were at first unusually silent on moves to temporarily roll back plastic bag bans. But they responded forcefully after the plastics industry asserted that bag bans could worsen the pandemic's toll.

"The fear-driven gains the industry was able to win this month are likely to be extremely short-lived," said John Hovevar, of Greenpeace USA. "The movement away from throwaway plastic is the kind of awakening that is not going to be that easy for the plastic industry to stop."

VIRUS OUTBREAK ROUNDUP

Staff no-shows, deaths hit California nursing facilities

Associated Press

RIVERSIDE, Calif. — A Southern California nursing home where nearly three dozen residents have the coronavirus was evacuated Wednesday after staff members failed to show up to work while six infected residents have died at a nursing home in the San Francisco Bay Area.

The 84 patients at the Magnolia Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Riverside were moved to other nursing facilities in the area after many employees failed to report for work for the second day in a row, Riverside County public health officials said. The number of absences wasn't clear, but only one certified nursing assistant out of 13 scheduled to work showed up.

The evacuation occurred a day after the county was notified that five employees and 34 residents at the 90-bed facility had tested positive for the virus, said Brooke Federico, a spokeswoman for the county's public health agency. The county initially sent nurses to help but was forced to evacuate the center as the shortage persisted.

"Nationwide all of our health care workers are considered heroes, and they rightly are," said Dr. Cameron Kaiser, the county's public health officer. "But implicit in that heroism is that people stay at their post."

Kaiser said it's up to state regulators to determine if the workers are punished for abandoning patients.

In San Francisco's East Bay region, six residents at Gateway Care and Rehabilitation Center in Hayward have died, Alameda County health officials announced Wednesday. They were among 35 residents and 24 staff who tested positive at the facility.

Alabama

MONTGOMERY — Alabama agreed to remove old ventilator triage guidelines that advocates said discriminated against the elderly and disabled. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services announced Wednesday.

The difficult decisions about who could get a ventilator if there aren't enough for all who need one has taken on new urgency as intensive care units prepare for surges in patients amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Federal officials cautioned states and doctors that civil rights laws still apply and that decisions on who gets a ventilator should not be based on stereotypes about a person's worth.

The Alabama document, created a decade ago during the H1N1 pandemic, included factors such as profound intellectual disabilities and severe dementia in weighing against providing the potentially life-saving treatment.

Delaware

DOVER — Several patients

and staff members at Delaware's state-run psychiatric hospital have been infected with the coronavirus, state officials said Wednesday.

The Department of Health and Social Services reported that five patients and three staff members at the Delaware Psychiatric Center have tested positive for COVID-19. Officials said the patients are isolated within a unit at DPC and that the staff members are self-isolating at their homes.

The psychiatric hospital is the seventh long-term care facility in Delaware where residents have contracted COVID-19.

Florida

MIAMI BEACH — Two months ago, the Miami Beach Convention Center hosted tens of thousands of cheering and laughing Super Bowl guests visiting the NFL's traveling museum and interactive displays.

Now it is filled around-the-clock with members of the Army Corps of Engineers performing the grim task of setting up a 450-bed overflow hospital in case South Florida facilities become overwhelmed with coronavirus patients.

Gov. Ron DeSantis visited Wednesday, saying the corps assured him it would be ready by April 21, when models show the disease could be nearing its statewide peak. He said the hospital could be expanded to hold 1,000 beds if needed.

"I would rather be prepared for the worst and the worst not come here than not be prepared," DeSantis said. "We don't know what a surge may bring."

Georgia

ATLANTA — Gov. Brian Kemp said Wednesday he's extending his order for Georgia residents to shelter at home through April 30 as the number of coronavirus infections confirmed statewide passed 10,000.

Kemp also announced he's requiring nursing homes and other long-term care facilities to do more to screen staff and patients for symptoms and keep facilities disinfected. He's also placing a temporary ban on short-term vacation rentals starting Thursday in response to local officials who fear tourists are flocking to Georgia to visit open beaches and parks.

"While I'm encouraged by some of the recent data, we still have incredible challenges ahead of us," Kemp said during a news conference at the state Capitol.

Confirmed deaths rose to 369 in Georgia, according to figures released Wednesday.

Kansas

MISSION — Gov. Laura Kelly's executive order restricting the size of religious gatherings amid the coronavirus outbreak was overturned Wednesday after the



JESSICA PHELPS, THE ADVOCATE/AP

JoAnn Poulton, right, presses her hand up to a glass door to say goodbye to her mom, Kathy Poulton, who leans in to kiss her hand in Heath, Ohio, on March 17. Kathy is a resident at the Inn at Chapel Grove, a senior living facility and is living with dementia. In some ways JoAnn thinks her mom having dementia is easier for her in this time, so she doesn't get scared, but she also knows her mom doesn't understand why she can't enter the building and give her mom a hug.

state's top prosecutor said it likely violates the state constitution.

With Easter just days away, the Legislative Coordinating Council voted 5-2 to undo the order that limited in-person religious services and funerals to 10 people. The now-overturned order had rescinded an earlier order that barred most gatherings with more than 10 people, with exceptions for religious gatherings and funerals, raising questions about whether large gatherings were now legally permitted. Kelly said legal staff is reviewing the matter.

Michigan

DETROIT — Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan said Wednesday that the coronavirus is "starting to weaken" in Michigan's largest city, but he also pleaded with residents to keep the momentum going by wearing masks and avoiding large groups.

Health officials, meanwhile, reported that Michigan has had 20,346 confirmed COVID-19 cases and 959 deaths from the disease caused by the coronavirus. There were fewer new cases and deaths reported Wednesday than on Tuesday.

"We are starting to weaken it," Duggan said. "If we don't give it new energy by clustering we are going to be successful."

Cooler weather could help discourage outdoor gatherings: After temperatures reached 70 degrees in parts of the state Wednesday, they were expected to top out in the 40s and 50s starting Thursday and stretching into next week.

Mississippi

JACKSON — Numbers released Wednesday show the stark disparity in how the new coronavirus is affecting black and white Mississippians, reflecting

longstanding health problems in a state where African Americans are more likely to be poor and uninsured.

The state Health Department said 72% of Mississippi residents who have died of COVID-19 were black and 28% were white. The department said that was based on cases for which "full information" was available, as of Tuesday evening.

It also said that 56% of Mississippians diagnosed with the virus are black, 37% are white and 7% are of another race.

About 38% of Mississippi's 3 million residents are black and 59% are white.

Rhode Island

PROVIDENCE — Rhode Island's governor is reassuring people struggling to pay their rent that they cannot be evicted because courts are closed at least until mid-May.

Gov. Gina Raimondo said Wednesday night in a message to Rhode Islanders that courts have extended their closure for all non-essential business through May 17 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

"This means the courts are not hearing any eviction matters through May 17. Tenants need to know that you cannot be evicted at this time," the Democrat said.

Attorney General Peter Neronha's office said it has received a growing number of complaints about landlords who are forcing tenants to leave, barring entry to properties or cutting off utilities without court permission.

Texas

AUSTIN — A 72-year-old is the first Texas state inmate reported to be a possible COVID-19 fatality during the new coronavirus

pandemic.

Telford Unit inmate Bartolo Infante died Tuesday, according to a Wednesday statement from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Infante suffered from numerous preexisting medical conditions and was hospitalized under isolation in Texarkana for viral pneumonia after testing positive for COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, the TDCJ statement said.

An autopsy was ordered to determine if COVID-19 was a factor in Infante's death. Four Telford Unit employees have tested positive for the illness and are under self-quarantine, while seven of others have been confirmed to be infected, according to the statement.

The Telford Unit is under medical restriction, the TDCJ said.

Washington

SEATTLE — About 1,000 patients in Washington state hospitals have confirmed or suspected diagnoses of coronavirus, according to a new count that shows earlier surveys had undercounted such admissions.

The Seattle Times reported that Washington State Hospital Association statistics, current as of April 7, include 664 confirmed and another 331 suspected cases of the disease caused by the coronavirus. About half of the cases are in King County hospitals.

Cassie Sauer, the association's executive director, said the updated count is from a new statewide reporting system that went into place on April 2.

This new system is more accurate than earlier surveys done in March, Sauer said, which counted weekly admissions of patients with COVID-19-like symptoms but did not track total patient counts.

NATION/WORLD

Biden v. Trump: General election battle set

By STEVE PEOPLES
Associated Press

The stage is set for November. Barring unforeseen disaster, Joe Biden will represent the Democratic Party against President Donald Trump this fall, the former vice president's place on the general election ballot cemented by Bernie Sanders' decision to end his campaign.

Biden likely won't secure the number of delegates needed to clinch the nomination until June. But without any Democratic rivals left, a general election campaign that will almost certainly be the most expensive and among the nastiest in U.S. history is underway.

"It won't be easy. Nobody's confused about that," Democratic National Committee Chairman Tom Perez said. "But we are ready for our standard-bearer. I'm confident because Joe Biden's values reflect the values of the majority of the American people that we can win."

In Biden and Trump, voters will choose between two white septuagenarians with dramatically different prescriptions for health care, climate change, foreign policy and leadership in an era of extreme partisanship.

At 77, Biden becomes the oldest major party presidential nominee in modern history. And having spent most of his life as an elected official in Washington, no nominee has had more experience in government.

But in Trump, Biden is up against an adversary the likes of which he has never faced in his decadeslong political career. The 73-year-old Republican president opens with a massive cash advantage and a well-established willingness to win at any cost.

Trump's campaign is moving forward with a multitrumped attack that mixes legitimate criticism with baseless charges and,

in some cases, outright conspiracy theories. It's similar to the unconventional playbook Trump used against Hillary Clinton four years ago with unexpectedly devastating success.

Trump campaign spokesman Tim Murtaugh said that Biden will be portrayed as too liberal for most Americans, weighed down by questions about his son's overseas business dealings and about questionable mental acuity at his age. Brad Parscale, Trump's campaign manager, predicted that Trump would "destroy" Biden, whom the president and his allies have nicknamed "Sleepy Joe."

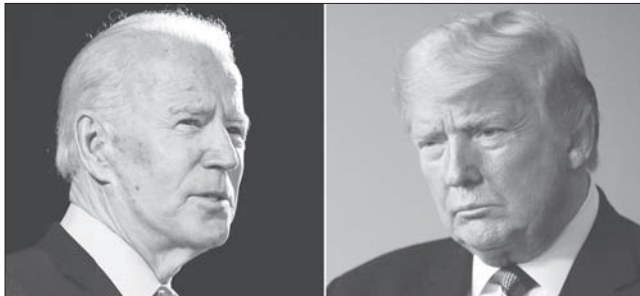
"President Trump is still disrupting Washington, D.C., while Biden represents the old, tired way and continuing to coddle the communist regime in China," Parscale said.

Trump's team also believes that he can win over disaffected Sanders supporters who see Biden as a consummate insider. Shortly after Sanders' announcement Wednesday, the president charged without evidence that Democratic leaders were plotting against Sanders.

The Republican National Committee has already assembled an extensive research book on Biden. The GOP has devoted 10 researchers to Biden and sent hundreds of Biden-related freedom of information and public records requests to gather additional damaging material.

Before Biden can shift his entire focus to Trump, the former vice president is tasked with winning over Sanders' skeptical far-left supporters, who have trashed Biden's record on trade, criminal justice, corporate America and foreign policy. The party's most progressive wing also fears that Biden's policies on health care and the environment, among others, don't go far enough.

For example, Biden supports universal health care, but unlike Sanders, he would preserve the



Former Vice President Joe Biden, left, speaks in Wilmington, Del., on March 12, and President Donald Trump, right, speaks at the White House in Washington on April 5.

private insurance system and offer Americans a government-backed "public option" instead of Sanders' signature "Medicare for All."

Biden advisers noted that he had already begun reaching out to Sanders' aligned progressive organizations, including those focused on young people like the Sunrise Movement and the March For Our Lives.

Sanders suggested that any full-throated endorsement of Biden would come with strings attached.

"We are talking to Joe, and we are talking to his team about how we can work together," he told CBS' "Late Show" host Stephen Colbert.

In a sign of what he hopes will come from those talks, Sanders said, "I hope to be able to work with Joe to move him in a more progressive direction."

Perhaps Biden's most powerful ally, former President Barack Obama, was quiet on Wednesday. Still, both the former president and first lady Michelle Obama

are ultimately expected to help rally the party behind Biden, who served for eight years as Obama's vice president.

Trump tried to raise suspicion about why Obama had yet to endorse Biden, saying, "When is it going to happen? Why isn't he? He knows something that you don't know." Former presidents typically don't interject themselves in the primary process, and Obama had long maintained he wouldn't get involved until a nominee had been selected.

Biden's status as the presumptive nominee affords him the freedom to move forward more openly with selecting a running mate. He's already started vetting potential vice presidents, but he had to tread gently with Sanders still in the race.

The campaign's general counsel, Dana Remus, and an outside adviser, Bob Bauer, are leading the early weeks of the search process. Bauer served as White House counsel to Obama and is married to Anita Dunn, Biden's top campaign strategist.

Biden acknowledged during a virtual fundraiser Wednesday that his team has discussed a faster timeline for announcing his running mate, which traditionally comes on the eve of the national convention. But, he added, "It's going to take a while to get through the usual vetting."

Meanwhile, both candidates are staring down the coronavirus pandemic, which has turned 2020 campaign logistics on their head. With peak infection rates still several weeks away for many parts of the country, the outbreak and related economic devastation will play a major role in shaping voter attitudes and campaign logistics.

Biden's team suggested that his empathy and experience are right for the moment, yet he has struggled to be heard from the makeshift television studio in the basement of his Delaware home. The campaign has committed to at least one virtual event each day, while Trump has starred in widely viewed daily White House briefings about the coronavirus outbreak.

Iraq appoints third PM-designate after second withdrawals

Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's intelligence chief was appointed the country's third prime minister-designate in just over a month Thursday after the resignation of the most recent candidate amid political infighting.

The upheaval threatened a leadership vacuum at the helm of the government amid a severe economic crisis and viral pandemic.

Adnan Al-Zurfi's candidacy was imperiled in the past 48 hours when key Shiite parties rallied around Iraq's intelligence head, Mustafa al-Kadhimi, to replace him. His chances were further diminished when the main Kurdish and Sunni blocs withdrew support for his candidacy. Iraq's President Barham Salih appointed Kadhimi, 53, as prime

minister-designate shortly after Al-Zurfi's resignation.

"With my mandate to lead the Iraqi government, I pledge to my honorable people to work to form a government that puts the aspirations and demands of Iraqis as the top priority," Kadhimi tweeted shortly after his appointment was announced.

Kadhimi was appointed by former Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi as head of the Iraqi National Intelligence Service, and has served in this post since June 2016.

In a resignation letter to Saleh, al-Zurfi cited "internal and external reasons" that prevented him from carrying out his duties as premier-designate. He had presented a government plan focusing on the economy, reconstruction and bringing arms under the control of the state, but

fell short of producing a Cabinet lineup to parliament.

"I offer my apologies first to everyone who put their trust in us," the letter said.

Al-Zurfi faced stiff resistance from Iraq's powerful Iran-backed political parties since his appointment in March. On April 4, eight Iran-backed militia groups issued a joint statement accusing al-Zurfi of being an "American agent" and threatened lawmakers if they approved his proposed cabinet.

Five weeks of political dysfunction over his government formation risked deepening the political crisis in Iraq, as the country faces severe financial hardship with plummeting oil prices and a multibillion-dollar budget deficit.

The crude-exporting country earned just \$2.9 billion from March oil exports at \$28 per bar-

rel, slashing government projections to fund state spending in half. Over 90% of Iraq's state revenue is derived from oil exports.

Meanwhile, the country is struggling to fund measures to contain the spread of the coronavirus, with health officials reporting a shortage in testing equipment and ventilators. At least 69 people have died among more than 1,200 confirmed cases, according to Health Ministry figures.

Kadhimi's appointment as premier-designate also comes a week after Esmail Ghaani, head of Iran's expeditionary Quds Force, visited Baghdad. Iraq officials said that the Iranian general suggested in meetings that Iran and the Revolutionary Guard did not want al-Zurfi as prime minister.

Al-Zurfi is the second premier hopeful to withdraw since care-

taker Prime Minister Adil Abdul-Mahdi resigned in December under pressure from mass protests. Mohammed Allawi, a former communications minister, stepped down last month, citing obstruction from political parties and after failing to garner support for his proposed Cabinet.

Kadhimi, who is backed by parties across Iraq's fragmented political scene, is unlikely to face the same setbacks as Allawi and al-Zurfi. In addition to key Shiite parties, Iraq's largest Sunni parliamentary bloc, al-Qiwa, and president of the northern Kurdish region, Nechirvan Barzani, have issued statements supporting his candidacy.

According to Iraq's constitution, he has 30 days to present a Cabinet lineup to parliament.

AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Police: Bear spray helps foil robbery, find robber

MD FREDERICK — Police say an attempted robbery was foiled at a Maryland restaurant after an employee sprayed a knife-wielding bandit with bear deterrent spray.

The Frederick News-Post reported that the bear spray helped officers arrest the man because police said he still reeked of it when they tracked him down.

The incident occurred last Friday at Dutch's Daughter restaurant in Frederick. Police said that James Edward Maxwell III, 36, threatened employees with a knife. The bear spray that was used on him is a powerful form of pepper spray.

Maxwell was charged with assault and robbery and sent to jail.

Man accused of rules violation taunts police

NC ASHEVILLE — A North Carolina man accused of violating the state's coronavirus restrictions by leasing non-essential rentals turned himself in after taunting police on Facebook.

Shawn Thomas Johnson, 34, surrendered Tuesday after Asheville police issued an arrest warrant for him on the social media site. According to The State, an account apparently belonging to Johnson commented on the arrest warrant to ask if he can "get a reward" for telling police about his own whereabouts.

Asheville police had described Johnson as 286 pounds on the warrant, to which Johnson commented that he's actually 235 pounds.

The Asheville Citizen-Times reported Johnson's real estate license was revoked in 2019 for keeping money belonging to property owners whose rentals he managed. Police said the renters in the property leased by Johnson complied after they were requested to leave.

Agency: Hemorrhagic disease killing rabbits

NM SANTA FE — New Mexico wildlife managers say recent deaths in both wild jackrabbits and cottontail populations were the result of a hemorrhagic disease known as RHVD-2.

The state Game and Fish Department and the New Mexico Livestock Board reported Tuesday that the disease is highly contagious among rabbits, including domestic rabbits, but it is not known to be transmissible to humans or other pets. It is from a different viral family from the coronavirus and is not related to COVID-19.

The Game and Fish Department collected carcasses for testing after reports of dead wild rabbits in early March. Tests were also done on domestic rabbits and both groups were positive for RHVD-2.

Wildlife managers are asking that people report any large numbers of wild rabbits to their local conservation officers or the agency's information center.



GREG EANS, THE MESSENGER-INQUIRER/AP

This family digs helping out

Owensboro High School assistant athletic director Jason Harrison takes time to volunteer with his 8-year-old twins, Jay, left, and Eva, to clean up and groom the flower bed located at the entry gate to the Western Kentucky Botanical Garden, on Wednesday in Owensboro, Ky.

Lawmaker apologizes for his obscene gesture

MN ST. PAUL — A Minnesota House Democratic leader apologized Tuesday after a video showed him making an obscene gesture at a Republican lawmaker who was announcing a tentative deal on affordable insulin at the state Capitol.

House Majority Leader Ryan Winkler, of Golden Valley, is seen off to the side extending a middle finger toward Chaska Sen. Scott Jensen, the lead Senate GOP negotiator on the insulin bill. Minnesota Senate Republicans tweeted a video of Winkler's gesture Tuesday, saying it looked like Winkler "didn't like our message today" on insulin.

Winkler apologized on Twitter, saying his son has Type 1 diabetes and that "after months in which Senate Republicans blocked the emergency insulin bill, it was also poor form of them to claim credit alone after we are all on the edge of a deal."

Sunken tall ship to be demolished for safety

CA DANA POINT — A tall ship that sank at its dock in Dana Point will be demolished because there is no safe way to lift and salvage it.

The decision was made over the weekend following extensive efforts to save the Pilgrim, The Orange County Register reported. It keeled over in its slip on March 29, leaving its masts out of the water.

The 130-foot-long vessel is a replica of the sailing ship that

THE CENSUS

\$32K

ing his truck to enter the Lauderdale County Courthouse in Meridian on March 16. He was initially hospitalized in critical condition. The initial reward was \$15,000.

Richard Henry Dana Jr. wrote about in the classic book "Two Years Before the Mast." The original Pilgrim that Dana sailed on from Boston in 1834 carried New England goods to California for sale or trade and in return carried back a load of cattle hides.

The Ocean Institute, the organization that maintained the vessel that was built in 1945, had warned it probably was beyond repair.

Man charged after van rammed into FBI gate

UT SALT LAKE CITY — A Utah man who briefly took a hostage at an FBI office eight years ago is facing new charges after prosecutors say he rammed his car into the main security gate of the agency's building to draw agents' attention.

Robert Joseph Hibbard, of Midvale, was charged with one of destruction of government property in a complaint filed Monday.

Hibbard, 49, had approached the security guard and asked to speak with an agent Sunday afternoon, but was told no one was available, authorities said. He got a phone number for the office and left, then tried the number at a nearby gas station.

The amount of the reward for information leading to an arrest in the shooting of a judge outside a Mississippi courthouse news outlets reported Tuesday. Police said Chancery Judge Charlie Smith was shot near his abdomen as he was leaving.

When no one answered, he returned and drove around the building several times before crashing his minivan into a gate. He was detained and later said he "wanted to commit a federal crime to attract the attention of an FBI agent," according to the complaint.

The incident comes after he briefly held a man at knifepoint in 2012, forcing him to take him to an FBI office several floors up to draw attention to his claim that his ex-wife's new husband should have been charged with murder in the woman's death the year before.

Family out hiking finds stone crypt from 1850s

NH DEERFIELD — A New Hampshire family hiking close to home during the coronavirus pandemic made quite the discovery — a stone crypt from the 1850s.

New Hampshire Public Radio reported Krystin Cooney, of Deerfield, and her family went looking for a moose behind their home after a neighbor spotted one. Instead, they came across what Cooney's fourth-grade daughter, Ellie, described as "a really cool fort."

After doing some research, they realized they had stumbled upon a crypt of former residents, the Norris family.

Ellie said she found it creepy at first, but she's gotten used to it and told her classmates about the discovery during a virtual class meeting.

Ex-police chief to be tried in military surplus case

MI THETFORD TOWNSHIP — A former Flint-area police chief will stand trial on embezzlement and obstruction of justice charges tied to his department's use of surplus military equipment, including parachutes and mine detectors.

A circuit court judge has determined that a district judge abused her discretion in September in dismissing charges against Robert Kenny following his preliminary examination, Genesee County Prosecutor David Leyton said Monday in a news release.

Leyton appealed the district court ruling.

Kenny was Thetford Township police chief. He was charged in August 2018.

A county sheriff has said an investigation alleged government money was deposited into a personal bank account and the equipment was given to friends and family. The sheriff said records show the 2-person police department received about 4,000 pieces of equipment through a federal program with a retail value of \$2.7 million.

Kenny later was fired by the township board.

From wire reports

VIRUS OUTBREAK



ELAINE THOMPSON/AP

A woman in Seattle leaves a grocery store last month. Concerns about the safety of going to stores during the coronavirus pandemic has led to a surge in online grocery shopping, but many online grocers have struggled to keep up with the demand.

Online groceries struggling to keep up with the demand

By KELVIN CHAN
Associated Press

LONDON — A pandemic forcing everyone to stay home could be the perfect moment for online grocery services. In practice, they've been struggling to keep up with a surge in orders, highlighting their limited ability to respond to an unprecedented onslaught of demand.

After panic buying left store shelves stripped of staples like pasta, canned goods and toilet paper, many shoppers quickly found online grocery delivery slots almost impossible to come by, too.

"It's kind of becoming more challenging to put a meal together," said Paul Smyth, a software engineer who lives near Manchester, England, where the online groceries industry is particularly advanced. He's a longtime customer of British online-only supermarket Ocado but hasn't been able to land a slot since he received his last delivery two weeks ago.

The problem for many deliveries is ramping up staff to pick goods in shops and deliver. But for Ocado, a cutting edge service that relies on warehouse robots, significantly increasing deliveries would mean a big investment in new machinery and warehouses too late to catch the spike in demand.

Smyth said he's starting to run low on meat and frozen goods, but wants to avoid going to a supermarket because he worries his asthma, diabetes and high blood pressure are risk factors if he catches the new coronavirus.

"I won't be panicking for another week, but if I've got to wait another two weeks for a delivery slot it's going to be very close to the bone."

The coronavirus crisis is giving the e-commerce industry a boost but troubles at Ocado and other online grocers highlight how hard it is for the industry to quickly scale up online delivery.

In the U.S., grocery shopping had only been slowly migrating online, making up 3% of the food retail market, according to a report last year by Deutsche Bank.

As the crisis hit, delivery orders surged as millions of Americans stayed home. During the week of March 2, even before some cities and states im-

posed "stay at home" orders, Instacart, Amazon, and Walmart grocery delivery sales all jumped by at least two-thirds from the year before, according to Earnest Research. Instacart, a platform that partners with more than 25,000 stores in North America, says orders in more recent weeks have surged 150%.

As a result, customers in hard-hit New York City are waiting days to schedule deliveries that usually take just hours.

In China, where the outbreak originated early this year, ubiquitous smartphone food apps helped millions get through months of strict lockdown. Even so, e-commerce giant Alibaba's supermarket chain Freshippo reportedly recruited laid off restaurant workers for temporary staff as more customers shifted to ordering by app and average basket sizes jumped in the first half of February.

Britain's online grocery market, one of the world's most advanced, is estimated to account for 8.3% of all sales in 2020, according to market research firm Mintel. Nevertheless, Ocado and the online arms of bricks and mortar rivals like Tesco, Sainsbury's and Walmart-owned Asda were all booked up. To be fair, they're prioritizing slots for vulnerable customers.

Ocado has pioneered online groceries in the U.K. since 2002 with automated warehouse robots and has licensed its technology to other companies, including Kroger. That experience wasn't enough when its website melted down after traffic quadrupled.

The company battled to get systems back to normal by taking its smartphone app offline and stopping new account signups. It temporarily blocked its website, then made all visitors wait in a virtual queue, alienating long-time users.

"It just felt as if they'd completely abandoned customers," said Smyth, 50, who waited as long as four hours online only to find there were no delivery slots. Ocado now has a new system to allocate slots but Smyth still hasn't had any luck and is getting by with basic items from a local shop.

CEO Melanie Smith emailed customers to tell them demand spiked to 10 times the normal level. Her message came after Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced new lockdown rules and urged people to use food delivery services.

Every time the British government announces new measures to fight the virus, she said, "we see a further extraordinary surge of customers."

"No matter how hard we work, we will not have enough capacity to serve the unprecedented levels of demand."

Virus may have lasting impact on service industry

By PAUL WISEMAN
AND ANNE D'INNOCENZO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — For years, personal trainer Amanda Tikalsky didn't have to worry much about her job. The U.S. economy's record-breaking 11-year expansion offered security to service workers such as her.

Then came the coronavirus, which closed the Milwaukee athletic club where she worked for 15 years. She scrambled to organize online exercise sessions to keep money coming in. About 25% of her clients made the jump with her.

"It's an adjustment for everybody," she said. "We are used to being face-to-face."

But even when the virus threat is gone, Tikalsky predicts that many customers will continue to exercise from home. The shutdown is also likely to change her own shopping habits. She has a new appreciation for the ease of buying groceries online.

The pandemic is almost sure to leave a mark on the way people work, shop and socialize, perhaps permanently shifting the way many service industries operate. Consumers will think harder about the health implications of squeezing into crowded restaurants and movie theaters. More businesses will accept the effectiveness of employees who work from home, and the move to online shopping will accelerate.

"We've never had a crisis where we couldn't socially gather with people," said John Gordon, founder of Pacific Management Consulting Group in San Diego, which advises restaurants.

Until March, service workers — from dishwashers to real estate agents — had been enjoying a record winning streak in the job market in U.S. service jobs had risen for a decade.

The virus wiped out 659,000 service jobs in March — 94% of the jobs that vanished last month as the U.S. economy plunged into recession.

The sector appeared almost immune to blips in the economy. Not even low-wage competition overseas or automation seemed to threaten service jobs that require direct contact with customers.

Then the virus arrived. It upended the service economy, which accounts for 84% of U.S. private-sector employment. It wiped out 659,000 service jobs in March — 94% of the jobs that vanished last month as the U.S. economy plunged into recession.

It is sure to claim many more.

In an interview Monday on CNBC, former Fed Chair Janet Yellen predicted that unemployment rates could climb to Great Depression levels. But because the economy was in solid shape before the outbreak, she added, the return to normal employment could happen much faster than during the Depression or after the 2007-09 Great Recession.

When the economy goes into a nosedive, manufacturers, not services providers, are usually hit first and hardest.

Not this time. The virus has been a gut punch to businesses that depend on social gatherings — restaurants, cinemas, theaters, hotels, airlines, gyms, shopping centers. More than 250,000 stores are now temporarily closed, accounting for nearly 60% of retail square footage, according to Neil Saunders, managing director of GlobalData Retail, a research firm.



ERIC GAY/AP

A pedestrian passes a business which has closed temporarily in San Antonio on March 24. The coronavirus crisis is upending service businesses, and the crisis may permanently change the way Americans work, shop and socialize.

VIRUS OUTBREAK

And the band played on



PHOTOS BY CAROLYN KASTER/AP

U.S. Army Field Band Barbershop Quartet members from left, Staff Sgt. Timothy Coombs, Sgt. Maj. Robert McIver, Staff Sgt. Will Tvrdik, and Staff Sgt. Ian Bowling sing six feet apart to allow for social distancing during rehearsal of their daily "We Stand Ready" virtual concert series at Fort George G. Meade in Fort Meade, Md., last month.

Unit continues its mission to bring the military's story to the American people through music

BY ALLEN G. BREED

Associated Press

For members of the U.S. Army Field Band, it has never been merely about the music. Yes, they wanted to please the ear, but they played for the Army. For America.

So as concert dates evaporated with the spread of COVID-19 and the band was ordered back to Fort Meade in Maryland, there was never any question: The band would not stand down. The music would not stop.

With an already faithful following on Facebook and YouTube, they quickly set up a studio space from which to live stream. The result: a daily "We Stand Ready" virtual concert series that attracted more than 4.3 million viewers in just 10 days, said Master Sgt. Brian T. Sacawa, a Concert Band saxophonist for 17 years.

Music "has the power to make incredibly deep and meaningful connections," said Sacawa, a native of Schenectady, N.Y. "It inspires people. It heals people. It unites people. And what better time than now to send that message to the American people?"

The unit includes the concert band, a chorus, jazz band and other smaller ensembles. It broadcasts from the concert band rehearsal hall, which now looks more like a television studio.

Like other Americans, band members have been ordered to socially distance — something that poses unique challenges for musicians.



U.S. Army Field Band member Chief Warrant Officer 2 Kevin Pick is seen on a monitor as he plays his tuba during a rehearsal.

Singing lead with the unit's barbershop quartet, Sgt. Maj. Rob McIver is used to standing cheek-to-jowl with his comrades.

"It is a little strange to sing barbershop quartets and sing them at a distance of 6 feet or greater from your colleagues," said McIver, an Owensboro, Ky., native. "It makes it a little more difficult to, you know, kind of like physically play off with each other if there's, like, a gag bit or something

that's supposed to be sort of funny."

Normally, the unit's 150 musicians and support personnel spend about 100 days a year crisscrossing the country and globe, performing in concert halls, veterans' homes, school gymnasiums and, sometimes, the theater of war.

There are benefits to staying at home. Sgt. Maj. Erica Russo, an alto in the Soldiers' Chorus who was recently named the



U.S. Army Field Band member Staff Sgt. Kyle Johnson plays the trombone.

unit's director of operations, can view the concerts with her 7-year-old son, Thomas.

She has been with the band for 19 years; the rehearsal for her boot camp ceremony was held on Sept. 11, 2001. This, she says, is another moment when the band's music can help give Americans strength and reassurance.

Sitting on the couch with Thomas, watching on a laptop as Sgt. 1st Class Randy Wight belted out "America the Beautiful" in a soulful baritone, Russo found herself with tears streaming down her face.

"Mom!" her son exclaimed. "You have been singing the song for a million years." And she had — hundreds of times, stoically and professionally. But it was as if she were hearing that old song with new ears.

"For just that beautiful little moment," she said, "this microcosm of emotion just made me really understand what it is we do."

WEEKEND



Brandy Clark
gets creative
Music, Page 32



Key moments

Reflective book 'More Myself' tells Alicia Keys' story from childhood to today's superstar status

Books, Page 34

WEEKEND: GADGETS & TECHNOLOGY



Got the screen time blues

More people are video chatting ... and hating it

By TRAVIS M. ANDREWS
The Washington Post

It's no wonder Samantha Bergeson hates video calls. The 25-year-old's courses at NYU, where she's a senior in the journalism school, transitioned to online video amid the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, during one weekly three-hour class, 30 fellow students can see straight into Bergeson's apartment.

Video chatting "kind of has this connotation of something private," she said, pointing out "people in long-distance relationships use it in an intimate and romantic way."

Since she shares her apartment with her boyfriend and their dog, she's relegated to sitting on her bed during class, always hyper-conscious of how she appears, especially since anyone can take a screenshot of the call. She tries to look as professional as the situation allows.

Then, after class, "there's now this huge pressure to do happy hour" over video, she said, even though the calls often come with "a lot of dead air and dead space."

What's the point? "You're not really doing anything ... You're both just sitting in a chair, staring at a computer screen," Bergeson said. "If you're looking for a human connection, a phone call might be more intimate."

Connecting with one another via webcam has become our new ritual now that about 90 percent of Americans are social distancing. Since we can't physically be together, our early-morning meetings, our happy hour gatherings, our dates, movie nights and even our dance parties now occur on our screens. Sure, video conferencing has always been around, but it's never been so ubiquitous. Zoom was downloaded 600,000 times in one week, and we're also using Skype, Google Hangouts and many others. But just because video chatting has become the new normal doesn't mean everyone enjoys it.

"I understand that it's a necessary thing right now, since it's the only way I can do school," said Sophia Kianni, an 18-year-old senior at Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology in Alexandria, Va. The calls, though, can make her feel anxious. She comes from a "very noisy household" where she, her sister and parents call to each other from room to room.

Now, she shares her schedule with her family,

and tells them not to shout during call times. And: "If you have to blend something, can you do it before that time slot?"

For some, though, video chatting presents more than simply an awkward inconvenience. Paige Thompson, a 12-year-old seventh grader in Santa Rosa, Calif., already lives with anxiety. Her school recently had a large check-in on Zoom, and she found herself dreading the call.

"For me, anxiety feels like not knowing what to do," Thompson said via email, with permission from her parents. Zoom, which she had never used, proved a perfect trigger. "As it got started, I felt awkward. Sometimes I smile when situations are awkward and I did, which made me feel embarrassed about people seeing that." Eventually she just turned off her camera.

Even without video chat, "in a socially anxious moment, we turn our attention inward. We focus on ourselves, and we start to question and monitor what we say, how we are holding our bodies," said Ellen Hendriksen, a clinical psychologist and author of "How to Be Yourself: Quiet Your Inner Critic and Rise Above Social Anxiety." "Video chatting, because we have to look at ourselves, mimics that self-focus. In a real-time conversation, we don't have access to that same mirror view."

Hendriksen suggested anxious video chatters should "just look at the other people on the call and notice that their background or outfits or lighting isn't perfect."

Many people, though, feel video chatting leads to too many miscommunications. "Just as with an in-person meeting, there are a lot of social cues. But in this setting, it's like they've been tossed into the air by an incompetent juggler, and it's unclear where they fall," said Susan Cain, author of "Quiet: The Power of Introverts in a World That Can't Stop Talking."

Normally, "if you chat with your colleague and you see them smile when you say such and such, that smile has value," Cain said.

But video chatting often lags. The glitches can "discombobulate." Then "there's always the question of when are you done talking and when the next person should talk," she added. "Everybody seems a little awkward, because the technology is so awkward."

However you feel about it, video conferencing could remain popular after we're no longer in need of social distancing.

GADGET WATCH

A little spring cleaning unearths great tech finds

By GREGG ELLMAN
Tribune News Service

For obvious reasons, there's a lot of spring cleaning going on in households everywhere. I'm currently targeting my office closet. Here are a few items I unearthed that are worth telling you about.

The Nimble wireless stand for Qi-enabled devices worked perfectly to charge my iPhone XS, but there's a lot more to Nimble than their great products.

When you receive a Nimble product, it's delivered in an eco-friendly package along with a bag to recycle old electronics back to Nimble for free. They have zero plastic in the packaging. Nimble's site states that they are "Bridging the gap between your everyday modern needs and those of the planet."

Back to the wireless charger; it's covered in an attractive fabric, designed with a sustainable blend made from recycled water bottles and organic hemp. There is a small plastic strip on the front, which is necessary to keep your phone in place.

A USB-C input keeps it powered with the included cable and wall adapter.
Online: gonimble.com; \$41.96

Many of us seem to be struggling to get a good night's sleep at the best of times, and these are not the best of times. Like many, I'm willing to try anything that claims it will help. The iHome Air fan and sound machine looks like a small desktop fan and produces natural white noise to work as a sleep aid.

The fan has dual speeds and can be angled 90 degrees in the direction needed.

Twelve built-in white noise, nature recordings and sleeping sounds are accessed from bottom side buttons. Both the fan and sound can be programmed with sleep timers to operate up to 8 hours.

Online: ihomeaudio.com; \$58.04



ANKER SOUNDCORE/TNS
The Anker Soundcore Wakey Bluetooth bedside speaker

It's pretty amazing how many features are packed into the Anker Soundcore Wakey Bluetooth bedside speaker, and it's no surprise that they work perfectly.

First and foremost, the Wakey is a bedside clock with a front-facing display, programmable alarms, FM radio station presets and white noise settings. You can set up to 15 individual alarms, with choices from 10 built-in sounds.

To me, the selling point of the Wakey is the built-in high-speed wireless charger for Qi-enabled charging devices. To charge your device, just place it on the top side pad. Charging delivers a fast 10 W charge for Samsung phones and 7.5 W charge for iPhones.

To listen to your playlists, connect your device via Bluetooth or directly with an aux cable. Either way delivers great sound from the full-range stereo drivers.
Online: soundcore.com; \$89.99



MOMENTUM/TNS
The Momentum Meri smart Wi-Fi thermostat

The Momentum Meri smart Wi-Fi thermostat is a great way to keep control of your home air systems. Once installed, your smartphone can be used with the companion app to set schedules or make temperature adjustments on the fly.

On-screen color touch controls assist with the setup and let you set schedules and adjustments.

According to Momentum, recent firmware updates to the smart home thermostat have improved the room temperature sensor. Also, on-board flow was added, so once the device boots up it will walk the user through the setup.

Online: momentumcam.com; \$129.99

The white noise from the iHome Air fan and sound machine can be a great help as a sleep aid.

iHome/TNS

ON THE COVER: Alicia Keys shares some of the stories that made the Grammy-winning superstar what she is today in her new book, "More Myself: A Journey."

AP

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT



Taylor Tomlinson performs in her Netflix special "Quarter-Life Crisis."

Netflix

By JESSICA M. GOLDSTEIN
Special to The Washington Post

The Taylor Tomlinson on my television screen was just striding across the stage in tight black jeans and a leather motorcycle jacket, lamenting her theoretically enviable but actually miserable condition: being 25 years old. She recently heard she was two years shy of developing the frontal lobe function that enables real adults to take the consequences of their actions. This, she explained, made her feel unmoored, dumber than she'd like to be and vaguely useless.

"You have no intuition. No instincts," she said. "You can't make decisions, only mistakes. That's why you're thin in your 20s: You don't have a gut to listen to yet."

The Taylor Tomlinson on my FaceTime screen is sitting in her home in Los Angeles with a white scrunchie holding back her hair and clear-rimmed glasses on her face. All that gives Tomlinson "a reason to put in contact and put on makeup" in the morning is shooting "New Couple Gets Quarantined" sketches with her boyfriend, comedian Sam Morril, who went from long-distance to live-in just weeks before, about five months into their relationship. She figures those two processes — expending any effort on her appearance, creating comedy — have "probably been helping keep me sane." She gestures at her get-up from sweatshirt to ponytail. "I would have just looked like this for two weeks, and I might have started to lose any sense of self I had."

Tomlinson's standup special, "Quarter-Life Crisis," was released by Netflix on March 3, right before the national response to COVID-19 began to ramp up.

Yet that success "also feels a little gross to acknowledge," she added. Before the gravity of this crisis seeped in across America, interviewers were still cracking jokes with her about how "at least everybody's indoors watching Netflix," she said. "And you're like, I mean, I guess? But I put out this special so that people would come see

me live." All her upcoming tour dates are off, like the rest of us, her plans for the future are extremely TBD.

A return to normalcy, whenever that happens, may not be a return to comedy-business-as-usual. "People are going to be out of work for a while," she said. "They may not want to spend extra money on live shows. Maybe people are going to be afraid to be in large groups like that for a while. Or maybe they'll be starved for it and there'll be another huge comedy boom. We just don't know."

In the meantime, she and Morril are occupying themselves with "New Couple Gets Quarantined." The 90-second videos are usually based on a real conversation, like when Tomlinson suggested they watch "Contagion" and Morril, who is Jewish, countered "that would be like if the Jews watched 'Schindler's List' during the Holocaust."

Tomlinson is, like her audience, in a holding pattern, trying to make something bearable out of a nightmare scenario. As the days blur together, we're all just sweating it out until the awful part is over, so we can get on with our lives. Which is something Tomlinson's been thinking about for a while. It's actually something she talks about in her standup.

Back in the spring of 2018, when Tomlinson made her "Tonight Show" debut, she put it this way: "Being in your 20s is like having a virus. You can't do anything. You just have to wait until you're better."

"I don't want to be irresponsible

and have fun right now," she said. "I'm so desperate for all the wisdom that only comes with age. But I can't do anything except wait for it. And even though I've always been told that I'm an old soul and mature for my age, I don't know what I'm doing. And it's frustrating to keep being reminded of that by life, every year."

Conan O'Brien, who's had Tomlinson as a guest on his show and brought her on his "Team Coco Presents Conan & Friends: An Evening of Stand-Up and Investment Tips" tour, respectfully disagrees with Tomlinson's harsh self-assessment.

"When I toured with Taylor, we were playing to some very large venues and she would walk out on that stage without a hint of fear," he told The Washington Post via email. "I could not have done that when I was her age. Taylor has the steely resolve of someone who has been doing standup for decades, and I still cannot believe that she is so young."

Tomlinson's jokes about being uncool — less "life of the party," more "faint pulse of the potluck" — have been in her set for years, as have bits about how nobody expects anything from her because she's so young.

But the linchpin of her special came about in a totally unexpected way.

Tomlinson broke off an engagement last summer, after she landed the Netflix gig but before she taped it. As she mined jokes from her pain in that several-month span, her existing material took on a new charge. It was the accidental but ultimate proof of concept: She didn't know what she was doing with her life. "The broken engagement feels like the turning point of, 'I thought I had it figured out,'" she said. "I obviously don't."

"It sucks that I had to get engaged and then go through an excruciating breakup and let go of this future I had planned for myself with another person," she said. "But the hour that ended up being Quarter-Life Crisis" was different and, in my opinion, so much better than what it would have been if I hadn't gone through that right before. And I felt like a different, better person after it as well."

‘Being in your 20s is like having a virus. You can’t do anything. You just have to wait until you’re better.’

Taylor Tomlinson



WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE

INTERACTION REACTION

Extroverts and introverts alike are finding imposed isolation challenging

By DEEPTI HAJELA
Associated Press

Within days, Vickery Zimmerman had figured out how to connect with friends and family even as she and her husband sheltered in place at their Chicago home.

There are the FaceTime calls. There's the movie night (remote, of course) with another couple. There are plans for a game night. Whatever it takes to keep the 30-year-old self-professed extreme extrovert and public relations specialist from, as she puts it, "spinning in circles."

Justin Zimmerman, 32, her introverted husband, is bemused — and amused — by it all.

"Now it's become a thing where people are FaceTiming us all day, every day to say 'Hi,'" the doctoral student said, laughing. "I'm like, 'You really don't have to.'"

The self-isolation designed to arrest the coronavirus' spread has turned the tables on many norms — like living life outside the four walls of home, gathering socially at the drop of a hat and having everyday social interactions with anyone from the local barista to the guy at the corner store.

But even in pre-virus times, there were people for whom those things were more pressure than pleasure: introverts, those who largely get their energy from inside themselves and selected interactions with people, as opposed to extroverts, who obtain it from outside themselves.

The quarantines and distancing have upended that. It's a relief for some introverts who now don't need excuses for why they don't want to be out — and, equally, a struggle for extroverts seeking out social connection in a world where that's suddenly a limited commodity.

'It's mind-boggling to grasp how much I need to be around other folk. My wife actually said to me last week: "For someone like you, this must be hell."'

Eric Bellmore

IT professional, Mount Pleasant, Mich.

Eric Bellmore, an avowed extrovert, found himself yelling a greeting across the road to someone he didn't know when he went for a jog near his home. He just wanted a moment of interaction.

"It's mind-boggling to grasp how much I need to be around other folk," said Bellmore, 47,



JUSTIN ZIMMERMAN/AP

Vickery Zimmerman works from her home in Chicago March 27 during the coronavirus-related order to shelter in place.

who works in IT in Mount Pleasant, Mich.

"My wife actually said to me last week: 'For someone like you, this must be hell.'"

It's been a relief for David Choi, a 34-year-old Los Angeles musician who is an avowed introvert even as the demands of professional musicianship required him to be networking and making the social rounds.

The demand to quarantine, he says, "gives you an excuse to stay home, which is what you want to do in the first place."

The world generally has been a place where extroverts are rewarded and introverts get a side-eye, says Lisa Kaenzig, the highly extroverted dean of William Smith College in Geneva, N.Y. She has studied introverted learners for years.

But the quarantines have changed those assumptions, she says. While everyone shares in the anxiety and worry over the virus, the actual demand of staying home and limiting social interaction has felt like a boon to the introverts she's spoken to. "All of the things that make the world harder for them as introverts, the world is better for them right now. They're adapting much more quickly," she says.

One introvert she spoke to was actually leery of the post-quarantine return to socializing, Kaenzig said, not looking forward to being swarmed by effusive extroverts looking for hugs of greeting.

For some introverts, though, there has been a struggle with the idea that staying home is a matter of government demand, that there's no option of going to a cafe or coffee shop if they did want some human interaction.

Jackie Aina would often do just that to break up the monotony of working from home, where the makeup artist and online content creator already spends most of



Eric Bellmore

Eric Bellmore works from his home in Mount Pleasant, Mich., March 27 while following a coronavirus-related stay-at-home guideline.

her time.

"Being able to go to the local coffee shop, it's nice just to switch up the environment," says Aina, 32, of Los Angeles.

"Now that control is being taken away," she says. "That's very different than choosing when and how you get to stay at home."

And of course, for those extroverts and introverts who share homes where they are being told to self-isolate, it's created a new level of challenge: learning to live with each other.

Extroverts have found ways to do many things remotely — video conference calls for work and school or even lunch dates and regular check-ins with loved ones over phones or computers, sometimes to the bafflement of the introverts they live with.

Jackie Hardt, 34, of Buffalo, N.Y., recently used video conferencing to have a long coffee date with a colleague or a lunch date

with friends. Her introverted husband, she says, doesn't understand that the least bit.

"It would be very hard for him to make virtual happy hour or virtual coffee," she said. "He'd be perfectly fine not seeing his friends until this is all over. For me, that would be a lot harder."

Through the recent days of unusually close quarters, they've been trying to respect each other's needs.

"I think he recognizes I might need more interaction during the day," she said. At the same time, she said, after several years of marriage, "I know when he needs to be quiet and be by himself. I'm trying to recognize that a little bit more."

In light of what the world is facing, she has an idea for a marriage vow that she believes would be more apt for the times: "In quarantine and social isolation is really what they should make you promise to each other."



MORGAN KAENZIG DE DENUS/AP

Lisa Kaenzig, dean of William Smith College, works from her home March 27 while following stay-at-home guidelines in Geneva, N.Y.

WEEKEND: LIFESTYLE

A hairy situation

With salons closed to curb the spread of coronavirus, amateurs are taking cuts, color into their own hands

By LEANNE ITALIE
Associated Press

Sister love playing out in a living-room hair trim. A botched home dye job with a silver lining. Stylists shipping out kits of personalized color with promises to talk their regulars through the process via FaceTime.

As the spread of the coronavirus sends more people into isolation, trips to beloved salons and barbershops for morale-boosting services and camaraderie are on hold.

While some brazenly cut themselves new bangs, turn to over-the-counter color or try picking up electric clippers and scissors to work on the heads of loved ones, others are letting nature take its course.

Memes and real-life stories are flying about cuts gone bad and the onslaught of gray hair, along with out-of-control eyebrows, sad lash extensions and overdue nail work. While such things seem frivolous in the sad and desperate crush of the pandemic, many people are reaching for rituals as emotional relief and connection to their longstanding way of life.

Mary Beth Warner in Syracuse, N.Y., has a lighthearted air about her as she hunkers down with her husband and 17-year-old son, but she isn't laughing on the inside.

"I remember my mom used to say during the war, as long as they could get lipstick they were happy," she said. "That's how I feel right now about my hair."

Warner, 63, usually travels to Manhattan for color appointments every four weeks with Frank Friscioni at Oon Arvelo Salon. He's been doing her color (blonde) for 25 years.

She's past her regular appointment, but rather than take on the task herself, she's wearing a baseball cap to walk her dog until she can coax Friscioni up for a house call, something he's doing with other clients closer to the city.

"Oh I love my Frank," Warner said. "I don't trust anybody else. Right now I'm mortified for anybody to see. Emotionally, it means a lot. I don't care if I die, as long as my hair is blonde in that coffin."

Others are more settled in letting their gray hair fly. Comedian-actor Kevin Hart posted videos on Instagram chronicling his life at home with salt-and-pepper hair and beard. Hashtag: #GreyHairDon'tCare.

"Everybody's going gray. I'm going to embrace it right now. I look like Morgan Freeman's nephew," he told Ellen DeGeneres in one of the celebrity phone chats she's posting on

Instagram from her Los Angeles home.

For others, styles are going shaggy as they rediscover ponytails, buns, and dusty stashes of headbands and hair bangles.

Not the Hinds sisters.

The younger, 18-year-old Sophie, calmly read a book as her 20-year-old sister, Fiona, nervously lopped a good 7 inches off her long red hair at home on Manhattan's Upper West Side, creating an adorable bob.

Fiona said she boned up for the task by watching "one YouTube video that we didn't even finish. We watched the first five minutes."

To which Sophie responded: "Are you kidding? You didn't tell me that."

In Fayetteville, Ark., stylist Scarlett Howell voluntarily canceled all appointments for at least two weeks. She's relying in part on savings to pay her bills.

"There's a lot of salon owners and stylists who refuse to close until it's mandated, and so they're actively putting people at risk," she said. "It's incredibly frustrating."

Howell doesn't recommend DIY cuts or coloring using professional products that are stronger and trickier than over-the-counter varieties.

"It's really damn hard to cut your own hair," she said.

Some of her regulars are paying for their canceled appointments.

"My clients are my family," Howell said, breaking down in tears. "It really means a lot for people to reach out."

Kelly Cardenas, who shut down his salons in Las Vegas, Chicago and Carlsbad, Calif., calls the DIY hair experiments playing out in homes and on social media a mere "15 minutes of feeling OK that could take your hairdresser up to a year to fix."

Debra Hare-Bey, a braider and stylist in Brooklyn, said black hair, depending on texture, length and style, might pose home challenges for those used to relying on specialists. Asked how her clients are feeling now that her home business is closed until the health emergency subsides, she said: "It's pandemicum. Pure and simple. They've lost their minds."

Mylena Sutton, 43, in Haddonfield, N.J., isn't ready to take matters into her own hands.

"I'm an African American woman with very kinky, curly hair that tends toward being dry. I don't relax my hair, but I do color it, and there's no way in the world that I'm attempting that at home," she said.

For now, she's covering her roots with hats, headbands and "overall hiding."

Before



Kody Christiansen

Before



Brian Coughlin
Submitted photos

Kody Christiansen, a student at New York University, went the box-color route with a slight mishap, but has no regrets. The 30-something about to graduate with an associate's degree was going for platinum, like the person on the box. He wound up a brassy yellow instead, but used a silver spray he had on hand to even out his color for a two-tone effect.

"It's a metaphor for my life," said the Bronx actor and author, who until a few years ago was homeless and addicted to drugs and alcohol. "Until recently, my life wasn't anything like life on the box."

Brian Coughlin, 35, in Evanston, Ill., usually heads to the barber every eight to 10 weeks.



After



After

He was about a month overdue when he asked his wife, Ashley, to try the clippers.

"Fuhi! huh!" Ashley gasped near the end of a YouTube video they made during the process. She forgot to snap on the appro-

prate attachment for the clippers and carved a bald spot into the back of his hair.

"I'm sorry. I was doing so good," she said, to which Brian replied: "It's OK. Just cut around it and we'll see what we can do."

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

Heavy hitters

From baseball to battle royale, the best Apple Arcade games to play this spring

By HAROLD GOLDBERG
Special to The Washington Post

The expansion of the Apple Arcade library is much slower now than around the service's launch in the fall, when I reviewed dozens of its games. And while the early excitement has waned, the games below, many new, but some older, prove that Apple Arcade continues to offer strong, creative titles across all genres — from RPGs to puzzle games to multiplayer offerings.

No matter how much social distancing or sheltering in place you're dealing with, no one can stop you from having a stellar time with your iPhone or iPad in these sundry worlds for what's still a very attractive monthly subscription price of \$5.

Butter Royale

Butter Royale is a mildly amusing riff on the battle royale genre with 32 players online in a meltingly fast-paced, top-down food fight. Filled with puns, this Fortnite homage offers varied powerups that include hot dogs to throw and baguettes that fire like rockets. It's a breeze to play. There are no levels to ascend to, just a flat suburban surface for your five-minute game.

There's no flossing, unfortunately. Then again, there are also no dreaded, potentially addicting in-app purchases.

UFO on Tape: First Contact

This timed, photo-taking game about a UFO invasion takes you through the historical deserts of Egypt and the jam-packed streets of neon Tokyo. As you whip around, snapping pictures of UFOs and taking videos as they zip through the skies, you'll feel a breathless exhilaration, as though you've become a photographer, discovering that the truth really is out there. Despite a corny moment or two of dialogue, this is one of the better games to ever appear on Apple Arcade.

Spyder

Despite not being a proper arachnid, the tiny, eager six-legged robot in Spyder is a wonder — and so is the game. A '60s spy movie-inspired soundtrack sets the mood. As you move stealthily through a bunker for clues to halt the launch of a nuclear device, Spyder tap tap taps along to find answers in lockboxes and, finally, on the bomb itself as it drops from a plane. The only issue is the game engine's camera, which goes haywire in corners. In those moments, you go from feeling like a cool James Bond to a bumbling Austin Powers.

Ballistic Baseball

Major League Baseball is on hold. If you don't have time to play the latest, big console sim, the over-the-top arcade nature of Ballistic Baseball is a happy, quick hit. I just love the details. For instance, when a wry hitter smacks a homer, the player laughs wildly before running the bases. Then, a stegosaurus in the stands ranges on two legs in appreciation of a home run. With a light career mode, single-player and online play modes, you'll feel as though you were taken out to the ballpark — from the comfort of your phone.

No Way Home

Boy, the dialogue and voice acting in this title can feel like a child's first attempt at humor on TikTok. Don't let that deter you: Everything else is nothing short of superb. When you begin, the game play in space is reminiscent of Asteroids, updated for 2020. But there's more. You move from planet to planet, exploring the frontier in



Gameloft

Ballistic Baseball



No Way Home

SMG Studio



Butter Royale

Mighty Bear Games

up to 50 vehicles, and meeting a variety of loopy characters who send you on quests. The hand-drawn artwork is a plus, as are the 60 different enemies you encounter.

Kings of the Castle

You've landed on a bright, appealing island world of tweeting birds, Crash Bandicoot-like music and plush, giant flowers that give you wild jumping powers. As a smiling girl adventurer in this world, you try to save a Prince Rupert from the clutches of Zantorian the Dragon. You can pick from a small variety of princess characters to play as, deal with timed trials, and even go online for some hectic multiplayer play. It's properly distracting in short doses. But you may get a bit dizzy: Kings of the Castle is played from a first-person perspective.

Down In Bermuda

You've crashed hard on a Bermudian island, and encounter a character who's slept for 30 years. As you help the bearded, backpacking Milton, you find a glasses-

wearing turtle who's been trapped for 563 years. Hopping from island to island, you find orbs, solve slider puzzles, and watch Milton stop to fish on the beach occasionally. It's good, diverting fun — the beaches and ocean especially so — if you canceled your vacation due to the coronavirus.

Pilgrims

Created by the brilliant but sadistic minds at Amanita Design (which created the Samorost series), Pilgrims is more than a puzzle game. In it, you search to find small clues that will propel you to the next difficult encounter. With its folksy music, quirky characters and fairy-tale woodcut graphics, Pilgrims is just about perfect. And you'll most definitely chuckle when your character deals with an angry priest.

Doomsday Vault

This riff on Norway's Global Seed Vault might be considered mediocre if not for its timely focus on environmentalism. It features a little being called DV Robot, who

wears a Charlie Brown smile as he climbs ladders, crosses streams and moves boxes to solve puzzles in order to find and save the last plants and seeds in the world. It may sound Polyanna-like, but I gently watered my own plants each day after playing. While there's no overt message to Help The Earth in a games for change way, Doomsday Vault does indeed make you want to do more to protect the world.

Inmost

Inmost is a thinking person's puzzle game, oozing with dark energy. With a monochrome palette and stylish pixel technology, its ghosts and creepy goo are truly frightening. Of the three characters you follow, the big-eyed monster that "feeds on pain" is the most nuanced. It's both abhorrent and, dare I say, somehow lovable. Searching for 80 well-concealed items was a chore, but the story wins big. What starts out as a tale of terror morphs into an emotional story of sacrifice by the end.

Yaga

On the surface, Yaga is as cheesy as a well-worn fairy tale. However, this light role-playing game is steeped in Slavic folklore that's compelling in its simplicity. Shakespearean witches who rhyme, goats under devilish spells and thieves with pitchforks all try to foil the protagonist, a one-armed blacksmith. Add some toe-tapping folk music to heighten the action, and the game will catch you in its spell.

Monomals

If you remember Viva Pinata, the sweetly lurid Xbox game, you'll get an idea of the appealing, colorful palette of Monomals. Even more engaging, though somewhat jarring, is that Monomals is two games in one. First, you play as a fishing lure (and what an ingenious idea for a character it is). You wander in an underwater platformer environment, catching and piercing all you can. Get to the end of the level and you'll unlock a Monomal. That character lets you open a music-making app with seemingly infinite possibilities.

Towaga: Among Shadows

It's you in a hellish environment against the demons who dare to take down the sacred temple called Towaga. In this bullet hell, you may be tempted to get lost in the art. But don't gaze too long. A barrage of monsters and minions attacks with startling speed. You return the favor with a beam of killing light that powers up with spells. The myth-like sentences describing each enemy in your code immerse you in this violent world, populated by the awesome Voidmonger. Don't be fooled by the relative ease in purifying the shrine on the first level. The next five are incredibly difficult.

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

QUARANTINE ERGONOMICS

Working from home in comfort
doesn't have to be a stretch

By LISA BOONE
Los Angeles Times

Many of us are working from home now as the fast-spreading coronavirus has forced us to shelter in place.

That means that many of us are working remotely in less-than-ideal ergonomic situations as we type on laptops in bed, on bookshelves, on the couch and at the kitchen table.

Staying home may be the right thing to do for the greater good, but it can be the wrong thing for your body, especially if you're working at an impromptu desk with spouses, roommates, children and pets underfoot. As a result, many of us are feeling stiff and sore, no matter how many online yoga classes we do.

"There is a saying that 'the best position is the next position,'" says ergonomics consultant Karen Loesing, an expert in evaluating work stations.

The key, Loesing says, is to break up the workday with stretching, walking and a variety of postures.

Here, Loesing offers 8 tips on how to stay healthy while working from home, plus some shopping inspiration in case you need to upgrade your WFH setup.



1. Desktop computer

Use your home computer so that you don't work exclusively on your laptop. If you can work on a bigger monitor, consider purchasing one.

"The monitor is the key to everything," Loesing says. "You want to look straight ahead while you are working."

If you can't live without two monitors, use your laptop as a second monitor.

Adjust your monitor so that it is directly in front of you at arm's distance (or a bit more), and your head is about 3 inches below the top of the monitor.

2. Riser

An inexpensive laptop riser will allow you to bring your monitor to your eye level. Books will also do the trick. Loesing recommends the Nulaxy laptop stand, \$75, and the Soundance laptop stand, \$34.

3. Keyboard and mouse

Invest in an external keyboard and mouse such as the Logitech K400 Plus wireless touch TV keyboard with a built-in touchpad, \$26.99, or the Logitech MK345 wireless combo, \$49.99.

Adjust your desk and keyboard tray height so that your keyboard and mouse are level or slightly below elbow height.

Keep your shoulders relaxed and your wrists straight while operating your keyboard and mouse.

With your arms at your sides and your

elbows at 90 degrees, your fingers should reach the keyboard's home row.

4. Seating

Not everyone can afford an Aeron chair, a popular work chair that can cost as much as \$1,600.

Still, Loesing says, "You get what you pay for."

Loesing likes the Mirra 2 work chair, starting at \$600 on the Herman Miller website; the Leap (\$880) and the Gesture (\$938) from Steelcase; as well as customizable chairs by Bodybilt and Ergocentric.

Adjust the height of your chair so that your feet are on the floor, or on a footrest.

Adjust the back of your chair so that the lumbar support is positioned slightly below your belt line.

There should be a two- to three-finger width between the edge of your seat and the back of your knees.

Adjust your chair, whether with pillows or mechanical adjustments, so that your elbows are the same height as the desk.

It's important to mix it up a bit, Loesing says.

"If you want to sit on your couch for 15 minutes, that's fine. One of the nice things about being at home is being able to sit and stand and mix it up," she says. "It's OK to go sit and work on your easy chair, but not for more than a half hour."

Learn how to use your chair if it's adjustable.

5. Posture

When sitting, try to recline by 10 to 15 degrees.

"Most people think, incorrectly, that they should be sitting with their back at

90 degrees," Loesing says. A slight recline will take the pressure off your hip flexors.

"You know when you get up from a chair and you feel like you are 100 years old? That's because your hips are tight from sitting at 90 degrees."

6. Move

Take a walk. Do some stretches. If there is one particular part of your body that is bothering you, do some stretches for that problem area. Try to change your posture twice an hour, and aim to perform some tasks while standing throughout the day.

Use software break reminders such as Fade Top or Stretchclock or smartphone apps such as UP or Stand Up.

Alan Hedge, Cornell professor emeritus and a noted expert on ergonomics, recommends getting up to stand and stretch every 20 minutes.

7. The desk

The average desk is 29 inches high, and most kitchen tables are even higher.

"It's too high for everyone," Loesing says. Raise your chair so that your elbows are the same height as the table, and place something under your feet if they are dangling. Step stools are often too high. You need a 4-inch support for your legs so that they are at 90 degrees.

8. Footrest

It's worth investing in a footrest as sheltering in place continues.

"A lot of people perch at the edge of their chair because the table is too high," Loesing says. "If you have a footrest, it pushes you back in your chair so that your back is supported."

iStock photos

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Biking through the Continent's backyard

Europe is a treasure chest of great cultural monuments. But it's also a continent filled with natural beauty — often overlooked by tourists sprinting from sight to sight, or searching for the perfect souvenir. I've found that a day biking in the great outdoors can be just as culturally fulfilling as time spent in a great church or art gallery.

Biking through the countryside (using a town as a springboard) is extremely popular in Europe. Thanks to the laws of supply and demand, you can generally count on finding bike-rental shops wherever there are good bike-tripping options. Here are five top bike rides that can take you out of the tourist rat race and into the heart of Europe.

Belgium: For the best short bike trip out of the well-preserved Gothic city of Bruges, pedal four miles each way to the nearby town of Damme. You'll enjoy a whiff of the countryside and see a working windmill while riding along a canal to a charming (if well-discovered) small market town. The route is a straight and level ride through Belgium's polder — a salt marsh that would flood each spring until it was reclaimed by industrious local farmers. Your destination is Damme — once a thriving medieval port, and then a moated garrison town, and now a tourist center. Allow about two hours for a leisurely round-trip ride and a brief stop in Damme.

Italy: Lucca, Tuscany's most impressive fortress city, is encircled by a perfectly intact wall. This Renaissance wall is also its most enjoyable attraction — especially when you're biking around on top of it. Stretching for 2.5 miles, this is an ideal place to come for an overview of the city. The wide ramparts are made-to-order for a leisurely ride — it's a wonderfully smooth 20- to 30-minute pedal depending on how fast you go and how crowded the wall-top park is. The best people-watching — and slowest pedaling — is during

passaggiata time, just before dinner, when it seems that all of Lucca is doing slow laps around the wall.

France: While known for its many chateaux, the Loire River valley offers much more, including wine tastings, balloon rides, graceful gardens — and towpath bike rides. Cycling options are nearly endless since the elevation gain is generally manageable. Amboise, Chenonceaux, Azay-le-Rideau and Chinon all make good biking bases and have places to rent cycles. For a convenient home base, try the city of Blois.

It's well-positioned as a starting point for biking forays into the countryside. You can cycle from Blois to Chambord — the monumental chateau of Francois I — in a level, one-hour, one-way ride along a well-marked, 10-mile route, much of it a bike-only lane that follows the river.

Austria: Biking is one of the most enjoyable ways to experience the famous "Blue Danube." Bicyclists rule here, and you'll find all the amenities that make this river valley so popular with Austrians on two wheels. The best route starts west of Vienna in the village of Melk. From here, it's a three- to four-hour, gently downhill pedal to the riverside village of Krems. The best biking is on the south side of the river, which has a dedicated, paved bike path the whole way; at worst you ride next to — but never on — the road. The south side is also much quieter and more rural than the traffic-ridden north side, with plenty of vineyards and small inns (Gasthofe) in the villages along the way. If you want to see attractions on the north side, inexpensive ferries carry people, bikes and cars regularly across the river at three points (Spitz, Weissenkirchen and



Rick Steves



Rick Steves

A four-mile bike ride along a canal from Belgium's Gothic town of Bruges to nearby Damme includes a view of a working windmill.

Duernstein).

Ireland: The Dingle Peninsula has a fabulous 30-mile loop that starts in the town of Dingle and mostly follows the Atlantic coastline. Cycling around the peninsula feels like a trip through an open-air museum; you'll see stone cottages, ancient churches, burial mounds and standing stones — some older than the pyramids. Stop by the Gallarus Oratory, built about 1,300 years ago; it's one of Ireland's best-preserved early Christian churches. Count your blessings if you see sunshine; more than 100 inches of rain a year gives this area its "40 shades of green." This is the toughest ride I've listed: It's a de-

manding four hours by bike — if you don't stop to catch your breath — and roads can be congested in summer.

When I'm traveling, I find having a bike parked in the courtyard of my hotel is a great way to fit in and literally "go local." By biking in the boonies, you can slip your fingers under the staged culture of any destination and actually find a pulse. It's clear to me that the more you delve into a region, the more you appreciate and enjoy it.

Rick Steves (ricksteves.com) writes European travel guidebooks and hosts travel shows on public television and public radio. Email him at rick@ricksteves.com and follow his blog on Facebook.

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

A virtual tour of the Netherlands

While Europe's greatest attractions remain shut tight to visitors, opportunities to enjoy them online are as proliferate as flowers in the spring. Gardens and museums are just some of the tourist attractions welcoming visitors into their worlds with innovative approaches to making their best assets accessible remotely.

A widely popular destination around this time of year is the Netherlands. Since it's not possible to be there in the flesh this year, put on those wooden clogs, whip up a batch of pancakes, pour a relaxing cup of herbal tea and settle in to these virtual delights. And if you'd like to see how to take a virtual stroll through the Netherlands' spring crown jewel, the gardens of Keukenhof, turn to page 26.

Museums

Holland's museums are among the most highly regarded in Europe, not least the Rijksmuseum. Some 125,000 of its objects of art are now online. The museum's Rijksstudio helps art lovers



Karen Bradbury

Read more about things to do in the Europe Traveler blog: stripes.com/blogs/europe-traveler

navigate by means of its numerous ready-made collections. In addition to one that points out the museum's highlights, site visitors can pore over works grouped by artist (Vincent van Gogh, Anthony van Dyck), theme (the Old Testament, daily life), subject (animals, tulips) or form of art (tapestry, metalwork). By setting up a free online account, one has the option to create a bespoke collection of favorites or download high-quality images of the works and get creative with them. Online: rijksmuseum.nl/en/rijksstudio

By way of the Google Arts &

Culture platform, the Van Gogh Museum offers a virtual tour of its premises, allowing viewers to see not only the works themselves but also the paintings' hung side by side. On the homepage of the museum itself, there's lots to discover too, including outlines of paintings for therapeutic coloring sessions, lesson plans for pupils of all ages and a collection of Van Gogh's letters. The "Unravel Van Gogh" app allows users to discern fine details such as grains of sand embedded in a painting or how the paintings must have looked before the vibrancy of the pigments faded over time. Online: unravel.vangogh.com

Escher in het Paleis is a museum in The Hague dedicated to the works of Maurits Cornelius Escher. This Dutch graphic artist is best known for his mathematically inspired woodcuts and lithographs, including optical illusions and his so-called impossible constructions. In addition to scrolling through his fascinating, trippy works, the website's "Make your own Metamorphosis" feature allows a user to custom design a shape-shifting graphic of his own. Online: escher.ntr.nl/en/mmm



rijksmuseum

Art lovers can set up an online account and download images of favorite paintings from Amsterdam's Rijksmuseum.

Greenhouses

By many measures, The Netherlands ranks as the world's largest exporter of fresh vegetables. Helping the small land accomplish this incredible feat are fields in which massive, state-of-the-art greenhouses have been built. In these enclosed facilities, plants are bathed in LED lighting day and night, water is recycled in endless cycles and pesticides are unnecessary. Until such time as a visit to the

Agriprot 7 greenhouse outside Amsterdam can once again be included on the agenda, pay a virtual visit to similar facilities by means of the University of California, Agricultural and Natural Resources' video titled "Glasshouse Vegetable Production in the Netherlands, Part 1," available on YouTube. And once we're all back on the road, check out bezoekagripot.nl and plan a visit to the birthplace of your vegetables.

WEEKEND: FOOD

Europe



PHOTOS BY DAVID EDGE/Stars and Stripes

Indian Palace's chicken makhni is sliced chicken breast fried in butter and served in a mild tomato-based curry. Lamb karahi, top, has lamb pieces cooked with ginger and herbs, made in a karahi pan.

Tired of home cooking?

Indian Palace in Wiesbaden adds variety to takeout

By DAVID EDGE
Stars and Stripes

As takeout food goes, Indian curry is a nice change of pace from the glut of pizza and doner kebab shops found throughout Germany.

Before the coronavirus led the country to shut down dining inside restaurants, I found an Indian place in Wiesbaden worth coming back to, and yes, they're still doing takeout.

Indian Palace is about a mile away from the Army's Hainerberg installation and a 10-minute walk from the Crestview housing area.

The outside of the restaurant is a nondescript storefront, with an inside that, once things return to something approaching normal, will seat about 20 people, along with a small bar. The decor is simple but pleasant.

The menu includes about 15 appetizers and 40 main courses to choose from, including 11 vegetarian dishes. For the uninitiated, a good Indian vegetarian dish has enough flavor to please most carnivores. But I prefer meat, so for starters, I ordered the minced meat samosas, though the flaky filled pastries do come in a vegetable version. The crust on the samosas was a little thick, but the minced meat was very good.

My companion ordered butter naan, the traditional flatbread found throughout the subcontinent and especially in the north. It actually reminded me of the naan I ate while deployed to Afghanistan.

Both appetizers were served with three dips: sweet mango sauce, sweet and sour tamarind sauce and a spicy yogurt sauce.

Next up was the chicken makhni, which was sliced chicken breast fried in butter and served in a mild tomato-based curry with rice. This was possibly one of the best dishes I've had since I moved to Wiesbaden. The chicken was super tender and moist. The curry was a little sweet but when I mixed it with the rice, I couldn't stop eating it.

My companion ordered lamb karahi, which included lamb chunks cooked with ginger, chili and Indian herbs cooked in a karahi pan. This dish was listed on the menu as slightly spicy, but it had several peppers on it. The sauce was deceptively hot. It was chock full of flavor and the more you



The Indian Palace seats about 20 people and includes a full bar. It is serving takeout only while under coronavirus restrictions.

ate, the hotter the sauce became.

The prices were reasonable and the portions were large. I'll be back, even if it's just takeout for a while.

edge.david@stripes.com
Twitter: @DavidEdge9678393

INDIAN PALACE

Address: Schulheissstrasse 23, Wiesbaden

Hours: Tues.-Sat. noon-2:30 p.m., 5 p.m. to 11:30 p.m.; Sunday noon-2:30 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.; closed Mondays. Takeout only for now.

Food: Curries and other classics

Drinks: Beers from India and Germany, and a full bar with European and Indian wine selection. Fountain sodas, juice, and water and coffee.

Prices: 13 to 17 euros for most meals.

Menu: German and English. Most of the servers speak English, are friendly and very helpful.

Phone: 0611-5315-862

Online: indianpalacebierstadt.weebly.com

— David Edge

How to shop for 2 weeks ... no hoarding necessary

ANN MALONEY
The Washington Post

Among the essential activities allowed during mandatory stay-at-home orders caused by the coronavirus pandemic is grocery shopping, but most experts agree that residents should cut back on the number of trips they make to the store as part of their social-distancing strategy.

One key to doing that is to create a list of essentials and stick to it, said Joanna Michalowska, a dietitian and doctoral candidate from the Medical University of Poznan in Poland, who worked with a team of health professionals there to create a tool — the Omni Food Calculator (www.omnicalculator.com/food/quarantine-food) designed to help people understand how much food they need for a two-week period.

"When something like this happens, we don't know what's going on, how to behave," Michalowska said.

Her advice is to first do an inventory of the pantry, refrigerator and freezer. Then, create a healthy meal plan for the next two weeks. Finally, make that grocery list.

The team at Poznan demonstrated how to do this by using software designed to create a handful of healthful meal plans that emphasize lean protein, fruit, whole grains and vegetables. They subbed in items with longer shelf life. For example, you won't find strawberries under fruit, but you will find apples.

The team then applied multipliers, so people can enter the number of adults and children in their household and calculate how much perishable, nonperishable, canned/frozen and fresh foods they might need to follow the meal plans.

"You'll be surprised at how little you need, even for 14 days," she said, stressing that the team also wanted to discourage hoarding.

"Don't panic-buy," she said. "That's the most important thing. Think: What do you need and

what will you eat? Think there are other people in this world. Other people also need these things."

Making healthy choices is essential, she said. She predicts that many will gain weight during the pandemic. (Her meal plans include the occasional treat.)

"In Poland, at the beginning, all the pasta and rice started to disappear, but also sweets," she said. "I was thinking, if you're preparing for quarantine, you should have essentials, not just junk food, especially because we're not getting as much physical activity."

She offers these general tips for shoppers:

- Stick to the list of essentials. Prepare to vary based on availability, but don't be swayed because an item is in stock or you see others buying it.

- Don't overstock. It leads to waste and prevents others from getting essential items. Check the dates on perishable foods to be sure you'll be able to consume all of it before it goes bad.

- Choose nonperishable products with long-use-by dates, such as whole-grain pastas, brown rice, canned milks, seeds, grains and legumes.

- Avoid unhealthy snacks and sweets. "You will eat all of them really quickly if you stay at home," she said.

- Buy products that you will use even after the pandemic is over. Don't buy items that you don't like or are allergic to just because they have a long use-by date and are available.

The last tip is important because it doesn't do any good to buy pounds of apples, for example, if no one in your house enjoys them.

"You can't build a meal plan that is good for every person," Michalowska said of the calculator, noting that tastes, availability and health requirements vary. Still, she said, she hopes the calculator and meal plans can serve as a guide as people navigate strategies for staying healthy and slowing the pandemic.



RICHARD VOGEL/AP

Customers wear protective masks while shopping for groceries March 20 in the Sherman Oaks section of Los Angeles.

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

ON THE QT

ADDRESSES

Video with Bart Siemerink: youtu.be/a0VXJL1AT4g
 Siemerink explains tulips: youtu.be/AGbAgV005s
 Lake garden with Andre Beijk: youtu.be/CP0uUAj4GU
 Video without narration: youtube.com/watch?v=dqMA5s-NIUw
 More videos are available at the Visit Keukenhof YouTube page.

INFORMATION

Online: keukenhof.nl,
 telephone: +31 252 465 555

— Immanuel Johnson



Keukenhof Gardens photos

The tulips are in bloom, but Keukenhof has no visitors. Because of the coronavirus pandemic, the flower garden on the outskirts of Lisse, Netherlands, will not open in 2020.

Take a virtual stroll

Since you can't go to Keukenhof's gardens, the gardens will come to you ... online, at least

By IMMANUEL JOHNSON

Stars and Stripes

Cheese markets, fields of tulips, windmills and wooden shoes are what the Netherlands is known for, but right now, you probably can't go there to enjoy them in person. But you can visit one of Holland's star attractions, Keukenhof Gardens, with its more than 7 million spring-flowering bulbs. All you need to visit the park is a phone or computer.

Keukenhof, with its thousands of tulip varieties and array of other flowers, is being brought to you through virtual tours led by Bart Siemerink, managing director of Keukenhof, the park's gardener of 34 years Andre Beijk, and others.

"If you can't come to Keukenhof, we'll bring Keukenhof to you," Siemerink says in a YouTube video posted March 21.

More than 60,000 bulbs were planted at Keukenhof last fall, and many of them are in full bloom, Siemerink says in Dutch as he stands amid fields of tulips, daffodils and crocuses. Crouching down to cradle a vibrant red Showwinner tulip in his hand, Siemerink explains that only tulips are red at Keukenhof, and the Showwinner is the first red tulip to

bloom in the park each year.

Black tulips will come into bloom in the upcoming weeks, he says. I don't speak Dutch — the video has English subtitles.

In another video, Siemerink explains that tulips originated somewhere between Turkey and China and were brought to Holland more than 400 years ago.

Beijk talks about the gardens he has worked in for more than three decades from what he calls "my favorite and oldest spot, the lake garden." This part of the park features, as you might imagine, a lake, along with mature trees, grass that is resown every year, and, of course, tulips and other flowers, Beijk says.

"If you work here, the water brings so much peace, and that makes this part of Keukenhof my favorite," he says.

Several more videos will be posted as the season continues.

Keukenhof will not open to the public this year due to the global coronavirus pandemic, but the gardens' future will not suffer because of this, park officials said in an official statement.

johnson.immanuel@stripes.com
 Twitter: Manny_Stripes



Hyacinths bloom at the famed flower garden.



Beds of daffodils and hyacinths bloom at Keukenhof.

COMMENTARY

Longing for a return to travel

By JULIE PACE
Associated Press

For the first time in years, we've put our suitcases away. Flights have been canceled. The shared Google calendar where we tracked each other's travel schedules is empty.

For my husband and me, travel has been a constant of our more than decade together. Long multi-country trips with American presidents on Air Force One and weeks spent in political battleground states for me; Monday through Thursday consultant travel and, more recently, quick trips to a new employer's London headquarters for him. It's often stressful, just as often exhilarating. The suitcases on the bedroom floor in a half-unpacked, half-packed state meant the prospect of discovering a new destination or returning to a familiar locale. Business trips offered the chance to find a place worth returning to just for fun.

The world seemed small, accessible. And I know how lucky we were to feel like it was.

Now, those same places seem so distant, so out of reach. And they quite literally are, with stay-at-home orders spreading and travel restricted to all but the essentials as the world strains to control the spread of the fast-moving coronavirus.

For us, the changes came slowly at first. My husband's trip to San Francisco was scrapped as northern California grappled with an outbreak. Then the SXSW conference in Austin, Texas, which draws hundreds of thousands of people each year, canceled.

My last hope was a one-night trip to New York for a business dinner. I could wipe down the Amtrak seat with a disinfectant wipe, I figured.

Then my company restricted nonessential travel, and my business dinner didn't make the cut. The next day, we all began to work from home.

Now our world actually is small, centered around our compact city house with its postage-stamp-sized backyard. Forget planes and trains; we've driven our car once in nearly three weeks.

Still, just a few weeks into this new reality, I find myself longing for the world. Not any place in particular. Simply the ability to be out in it.

When I make my midday escape for a walk around our neighborhood, I keep looking to the sky to see how many planes I can spot flying overhead. We're just a few miles away from Reagan National Airport. But on most days, I'm lucky if I spot one.

At night, I scan the news and find myself pausing to scroll through photo galleries of iconic locations around the world, many of them places I've visited. At first, there's something eerily beautiful about the empty scenes at the Eiffel Tower or St. Peter's Square, the desolate streets of New York and San Francisco. Then it's simply sad.

And I think to myself: Some-day we'll go back.

Germany
DIRECTORY

Restaurants

KAISERSLAUTERN



Call 0631-58047 for Pick-Up Orders
Tue-Sun 11am-9pm Mon Closed
Weilerbacher Str. 110
67661 Kaiserslautern

BAVARIA



Neue Amberger Straße 39
92655 Grafenwöhr
09641 9369-0 • www.hotelboehm.de

RHEIN MAIN



Come Experience Germany's
Finest Beer and Authentic
German Cuisine

www.brauhaus-castel.de
Otto Sehr Ring 27
55252 Mainz-Kastell
Tel. 06134-24999

Open daily from 11:00 – 24:00

STUTTGART

Breakfast - Lunch
Daily Special
Coffee & Cake
Homemade Ice Cream
Sunday Breakfast



Turnstr. 6
71088 Holzgerlingen
07031 414777
www.dassstadtscafe.de

Opening Times
Mo - Fr 8:30am to 7pm
Sa 9am to 6pm
Sun 9am to 7pm



COCKTAIL
CASINO
HAPPY Hour
ENCHI Hour

Schillerplatz 3-5
67655 Kaiserslautern
0631 3702 7570
www.Enchilada-kaiserslautern.de



Savor the Flavor
of the Islands

Dieffurter Str. 18 | 92655 Grafenwöhr
0152-58861759
Fr - Sa 09:00 - 22:00

Caribbean Dishes - Side Selection - Desserts



Open daily
11:30 – 15:00 & 17:30 – 23:30
USD accepted – Master Card/Visa
Tel. 06134-258928
Uthmann Strasse 8, Mainz-Kostheim



OUTLETCITY METZINGEN
Lindenberg 5, 72555 Metzingen
+49 (0)7123 38 11 61.

Opening Hours:
Mon – Sat 11:30am – 10pm

DRINK

E
A
T

Hotels



BOHM
seit 1700

Neue Amberger Straße 39
92655 Grafenwöhr • 09641 9369-0
www.hotelboehm.de

Hotel Forsthaus by Garmisch

Free Breakfast, Family Apartments,
Hot Tub, Sauna, Dogs Welcome,
American/German Owned,
36 EUR/Person, Double Occupancy, Per Night,
Tel.: 08824-9120 • Email: hotel@forsthaus-oberau.de
VAT Forms accepted! www.forsthaus-oberau.de



Vollmoellerstrasse 5 • 70563
VAIHINGEN - STUTTGART
T +49 711 730 0 • F +49 711 730 2525 • E. 19426@pullman.com
BOOK TODAY 0711 730 2300



EDDELWEISS
LODGE AND RESORT

STAY




Just 3 Minutes from Rose Barracks
Amberger Str. 9 • 92249 Völk
E-Mail: hotel-villa@gmail.de
Tel.: +49 (0) 9662 42070
www.hotel-villa-völk.de

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Pacific



Let your mind roam

Tokyo museum offers a video primer on Western art

By JOSEPH DITZLER
Stars and Stripes

The mind that's locked down by a stay-at-home coronavirus order may yet roam online.

Looking for something to satisfy your intellectual curiosity, tame a couple of homebound students or maybe provide an enticing look at a destination in Japan you've been meaning to visit? Virtual tours online are in vogue this season, and Japan has several worth your time.

For one, the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo is a world-class museum that ranks with the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, the National Gallery in London and the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. They all have links on the Google Arts and Culture website.

The Tokyo museum in Ueno Park offers a video primer on western art by the curator, Shinsuke Watanabe, and associate curators that expound upon a sample of art in the museum collection. They deconstruct the methods, interpretations and themes of paintings and artifacts from Europe of the 15th to 17th centuries.

The museum is the only institution of its kind in Japan devoted to western art. Founded 61 years ago, it was built around a collection acquired by Kojiro Matsukata, the former owner of Kawasaki Dockyard Co. Ltd., now Kawasaki Heavy Industries.

After finishing primary schools in Japan, Matsukata attended Rutgers College, now Rutgers University, in New Jersey, where he played football, and Yale University, where he earned a law degree.

The shipbuilding business made Matsukata a wealthy man, and with his fortune he acquired thousands of works of art, many Japanese woodblock prints but also oil paintings and artifacts from European galleries during his visits there in the late 1910s and early 1920s, according to the museum website.

Just prior to World War II, Matsukata left about 400 works of Impressionist

art and sculptures by Auguste Rodin in France, which confiscated them as enemy property toward the end of the war.

However, the French government returned most of the artworks to Japan by 1959 "as a sign of the renewed amity between the two countries," according to the museum. Those artworks, the Matsukata Collection, became the seed for the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo.

Online, through Google Arts and Culture, art aficionados can take a virtual tour of the museum and through "curator's talks" learn something about 11 pieces of art from Japanese curators whose short lectures are translated into English.

Watanabe starts the presentation with a 16th century painting by Titian and his workshop, "Salome with the Head of John the Baptist."

Associate curators take up works by Pieter Brueghel the Younger, Peter Paul Rubens and gold rings from the 17th century, among other pieces.

The western art museum tour is the starting point for a tour of many similar institutions that may turn you into a global art connoisseur.

ditzler;joseph@stripes.com
Twitter: @JosephDitzler

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

Go to the Google Arts & Culture website and search for The National Museum of Western Art. When the results appear, click on the topmost panel, the one labeled "partner." On the next page, look for the Online Exhibit, curator's talks, parts 1 and 2, in English.

INFORMATION

Online: nmwa.go.jp/en/artsandculture.google.com/partner/the-national-museum-of-western-art

— Joseph Ditzler



Top: "Salome with the Head of John the Baptist," by Titian and his workshop, is the first work of art discussed in an online presentation by the National Museum of Western Art collection in Tokyo.

Left: This 17th century feder ring of enamel and gold is in the collection of the National Museum of Western Art in Tokyo.

The National Museum of Western Art photos

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Still going to the Games?

How to cancel, update or make new travel arrangements for Tokyo Olympics in 2021

NATALIE B. COMPTON
The Washington Post

The International Olympic Committee announced that it has postponed the start of the Tokyo Olympics to July 23, 2021, and of the Paralympic Games to August 24, 2021, because of the coronavirus pandemic.

The worsening outbreak, along with measures to prevent its spread — such as social distancing, stay-at-home orders and increasingly severe travel restrictions — affected Olympic athletes' training and made the 339-event spectacle no longer tenable this year in Tokyo, whose metropolitan area is the world's largest by population.

"In the meantime, we will strengthen our efforts to encourage travelers to visit Japan as soon as it's safe to do so," Naohito Ise, executive director of the Japan National Tourism Organization in New York, told The Washington Post in an email. "This means that many travelers may still be able to visit Japan this fall, and can certainly continue to plan trips for 2021."

The U.S. State Department has a Level 4: Do Not Travel advisory in place for all international travel; it is not advisable to take a trip to Japan at this time.

But for travelers who had been planning to attend the 2020 Games, there are a lot of factors to juggle when it comes to canceling or changing Tokyo travel reservations. And for those who didn't plan to attend but now would like to try for 2021, the postponement may offer new opportunities.

How do I reschedule flights?

Now that the Games have officially been pushed back, some travelers are stuck with summer plane tickets to Tokyo that they no longer want or need.

During the pandemic, many airlines are allowing customers who booked directly with them to reschedule flight reservations without change fees, or exchange flights for airline credits to be used at a later date. That means travelers looking to attend the Olympics in 2021 can rebook their Tokyo flights without financial penalty.

According to federal regulations, travelers should get cash back for their ticket if the airline cancels their reservation as long as it's a flight to, from or within the United States, regardless of airline.

"If your flight is canceled and you choose to cancel your trip as a result, you are entitled to a refund for the unused transportation — even for non-refundable tickets," the U.S. Transportation Department website reads. "You are also entitled

to a refund for any bag fee that you paid, and any extras you may have purchased, such as a seat assignment."

Airlines may not be forthright with this information, so travelers may need to request a cash refund explicitly.

The rules are different for those who booked flights through third-party sites, although many of those are adjusting their policies as well. Those policies will differ from company to company, so check their websites and contact a customer service agent for further assistance (but note that wait times may be much longer than normal).

If all else fails, travelers can try to get a refund for their ticket through their credit card company.

"Depending on the card, the company will fight for a refund on your behalf," Andrea Sachs reported for The Washington Post. "Document all of your communications. For instance, take screen shots of your DMs and online activity with the booking sites, airlines and properties."

How do I reschedule lodging?

Japan has a wide range of accommodation options for Olympics travelers, from Airbnbs to rustic guesthouses, luxury hotels, capsule hotels and more. Each accommodation type will have its own policies regarding canceling or rescheduling lodging.

For hotel reservations, contact the property to find out your options.

Some hotels, such as Hoshino Resorts, which operates nearly 40 properties throughout Japan, are allowing travelers to postpone reservations for up to a year. Marriott International hotels are allowing guests "with existing reservations for any future arrival date, including reservations with prepaid rates that are typically more restrictive," to change or cancel a reservation without a fee up to 24 hours before check-in, "as long as the change or cancellation is made by June 30, 2020." (Exclusions, however, may apply.)

Meanwhile, as with flights, online travel sites may have altered options for changing your hotel reservations.

"If you've booked your hotel through an online travel agency like Orbitz or Travelocity, good news is canceling or changing plans has gotten a lot easier with new online tools that let travelers cancel plans online or in the app," Mel Dohmen, senior manager of communications and public relations for Expedia Group, told The Post in an email.

It's not yet clear whether coronavirus-related policy changes made for immediate reservations will apply to bookings later in 2020.



Jae C. Hong/AP

A man walks past a countdown display for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics and Paralympics on March 31 in Tokyo. The clock indicates that there are 479 days to go.

"Travelers with reservations later this spring and summer should check back closer to their travel date as many lodging [options] are updating their policies daily to align with changing restrictions and local mandates," Dohmen said. "That said, travelers who qualify for current COVID-19-related policies may want to play it safe with a refund or voucher to use toward a future stay. Regardless, whether you are canceling travel or changing travel dates, you likely won't have to pay a change fee."

For lodging reservations made through an online travel agency, go online or in the app and see what cancellation options are available. If the offer isn't appealing, start a chat with a virtual agent on-site or fill out a cancellation form.

Airbnb's response to the crisis, including changes to its cancellation and refund policies, has been in flux, and many travelers have been left with reservation frustrations during the pandemic. The company recommends that customers monitor its "Extenuating circumstances policy and the coronavirus (COVID-19)" page for updates about coverage.

What does this mean for my Olympics tickets?

According to the Tokyo 2020 website, if you already bought tickets but cannot attend on the new dates, your tickets will be refunded.

Beyond that, it's not totally settled. Reuters reported that the Tokyo Olympics organizing committee was still considering the status of purchased tickets for the

2020 Games; the site says that, "in principle," 2020 tickets would just "be valid for a new date."

What about my other day trips and tickets for that week?

Travelers who had booked additional tourism activities in Japan during the Olympics, such as day trips and sightseeing excursions, should check with the activity providers. Out of precaution, many tours are being canceled during the pandemic anyway. Some popular tour operators, such as Get Your Guide, are offering full refunds or future credits for canceled bookings.

What if I didn't plan to attend but want to in 2021?

Attending the Olympics is a bucket-list travel experience for millions of people around the world. So, despite the unsettled landscape, travelers interested in attending the Games in 2021 should make reservations ASAP, says Nori Akashi, from the Tokyo Tourism Representative Office.

"Many people book trips to Tokyo/Japan a year ahead (or even earlier) if they are trying to go in high seasons for cherry blossoms, festivals, etc.," Akashi told The Post in an email. "The travel arrangement for the Olympics would not look any different."

In light of the pandemic's impact on travel, people may want to book room rates or flights that include free cancellation.

STARS & STRIPES

Month of the Military Child

Let's Celebrate by Sharing Your Story!

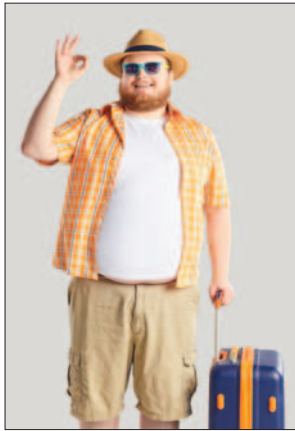
LAKELAND
UNIVERSITY-JAPANClub
BeyondSubmit Today:
militarychild.stripes.comWhat's
Your
Story?

Stories will be...

- Featured on our website militarychild.stripes.com.
- Printed in Stars and Stripes Pacific's community papers.



WEEKEND: TRAVEL



1 Figure out who's going
Whether the family, you and your siblings or some other collection of folks, check whether there are dates that won't work. If you're going solo, congratulate yourself and skip to Step 2.



4 Decide how much you want to spend
Start saving. How much can you set aside? You don't want to rely on credit cards. A vacation savings account is one of the most important girders in this construction.



8 Buy insurance, but be careful
Because coronavirus is now a known event, you probably won't be covered if you want to cancel your trip, unless you have cancel-for-any-reason insurance. Read the fine print, talk with an agent and find out whether a travel provider's default is covered.

Plan ahead

The world is your oyster, but at the moment, there's no lustrous pearl inside. Until travel returns, spend your time organizing the best vacation ever. Here are 10 things you can do.

By CATHERINE HAMM ■ *Los Angeles Times*

2 Set a goal
Gather your group — even if virtually — and figure out what each of you wants from your respite. It's critical to find out who wants to lounge undisturbed on the beach for a week and who wants to do the equivalent of study abroad. If this doesn't go well, maybe some folks should go one way and some another.



5 Begin expense calculations
If you're driving, figure your mileage, miles per gallon and the cost of gas. Go to AAA Gas Prices. Flying? Start perusing airfares. Lodging, meals and incidentals? See the federal government's per diems for international travel and U.S. travel in the Lower 48 and in Alaska, Hawaii and the territories.

7 Begin your bookings
A travel adviser (don't call them agents) can help with complex vacations. But if you prefer to do it yourself, save the details of each transaction. Keep meticulous records. Consider using a planning app (TripIt is one), but many people also like to keep paper records as a backup.



(iStock photos)

9 Begin studying your destination
Keep track of attractions and restaurants you'll want to visit. Consider a loose daily itinerary. Check the weather so you pack correctly (you are making a list of outfits you can put together out of what you're packing, right?), if going abroad, study up on what is considered inappropriate dress at your destination.



3 Choose your destination
A beach vacation may sound simple, but California has more than 400 public beaches. Which one of the thousands will work for you? A learning trip can be any place you choose; what's a favorite and what are the risks?



6 Add up hidden fees
Do you need insurance? If you need to board a pet, pay someone to bring in your mail and check on the house, park at the airport or a cab or ride-share, figure in those costs. Unless you're tent camping or staying with family, calculate tips, and don't forget the housekeeper. Figure in transportation at your destination.



10 Make sure your documentation is current
If you're traveling internationally, check passport expiration dates; know that some countries require that you have as much as six months left on your passport. (Go to country information at travel.state.gov.) Find out whether you need a visa. For now, domestic flyers do not need to worry about having the federally compliant driver's license or other acceptable identification to board a plane. President Donald Trump has postponed the implementation, which was to have been Oct. 1.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL



KEEPING TRAVEL MEMORIES ALIVE

iStock

10 tips to remember your vacations more easily

By CHRISTOPHER REYNOLDS
Los Angeles Times

How can you keep your travel memories alive? You can start by incorporating these tips into your travel routine long before you head out the next time. Some are as easy as planning a meetup with locals who know the lay of the land; others are about collecting information you can use when you return home. Here are 10 ways to enhance your photo memories:

1 Create a written itinerary and build on it

That itinerary you created with flight times and hotel reservation codes is the first step in your process. Keep amending and adding to it as your trip goes on. Store it on your phone, laptop or Google Docs. Scribble down restaurant names or picnic locations for your meals. Pubs and bars, too. Take a quick photo of each place to record the location.

2 Give yourself time to make those memories

As you're building that itinerary, ensure you have time to take photos. On road trips, I used to cover 300 or 400 miles a day. Now I aim for 200 because I want to stop for an hour if a great-looking roadside diner pops up. Or a rainbow. Or a lonely road twisting into the distance. Those are some of my favorite pictures.

3 Include a class or meetup in your plans

Then keep in touch. Not every trip yields a new friendship that will endure. But if your itinerary includes a cooking class, photo meetup or on-the-spot language brush-up, you connect with more people. If it feels right, collect email addresses and social media contacts. If nothing else, you can send them a photo or two that you didn't share on the spot.

4 Grab coasters and hotel stationery (or take photos of them)

I stuff those things into my carry-on bag almost as a reflex. Also, I've never smoked, but I have dozens of matchbooks from travels in the 1980s and '90s because their graphics, colors and shapes are tangible reminders of certain settings.

5 Snap photos of people you meet (with their permission)

That way, you won't come home with images only of what you ate and the loved ones you hung out with. The next time you're eating in a restaurant, don't just take a photo of your plate. Ask if you can take a picture of the waiter delivering the food. It's easy to interact with only your travel mates and the guide. Don't get lazy.

6 Keep a journal and/or be diligent with social media posts

But not too diligent. The point is to have an experience, not justify yourself on Instagram. If you can draw a bit, sketch a few things. Even if the results are lousy, the process will help you slow down and soak up the scene. The photographic version of this is using a tripod. It demands deceleration.

7 Collect as much caption info as you can

Do this as you're taking the pic. Things can blur if you're traveling among small towns or similar landmarks. Get place names so you can reconstruct your route. Thanks to mobile phones and Google maps, this is getting easier.

8 Organize your photos within a month of return

Preferably within a week. I suggest organizing by year and location. Then back them up someplace other than your phone or the cloud. I suggest an external hard drive. That said, Apple's and Google's most common image management software can be very helpful. (The app is called Photos in both cases.) I make a folder for every year, and within each year I have folders for each trip, labeled by month and destination. I mark the best 10% of the images with stars and usually disregard or delete the rest. I mix video clips with stills, but some people separate them. I'm moving my archive into Adobe Lightroom Classic, which combines an organizational framework with powerful image-editing options.

9 Print your favorite travel photos

If you're a digital native, you share pictures with your phone or laptop and keep a few favorites as screen savers. All good. But there's old-school power to putting pictures on the wall. If you take the time (and expense) to display travel images in your home, you'll be reminded of those trips more often. Costco, Shutterfly, Bay Photo and many other companies will print your digital images in all sorts of formats and mail them to you.

10 Repeat yourself

That is, don't bore your friends with the same travel stories. But if you have loved ones who shared those adventures with you — then, yes, tell, retell and retell again. That's how you keep them alive. In fact, through some miracle of human psychology, those stories get better every time.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

More than who we thought she was

Brandy Clark's breakup album allows her creative freedom

BY KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

When singer-songwriter Brandy Clark went into the studio to record her next album, many of her songs reflected on the breakup of a 15-year relationship. Musically, she was divorcing herself of the notion that she was just a country singer.

"All I ever saw myself as was a country artist because most of my influences were country," said the 44-year-old singer from Morton, Wash. "But in this record, I guess I just kind of took the handcuffs off of myself."

Clark has co-written big hits for Miranda Lambert ("Mama's Broken Heart"), The Band Perry ("Better Dig Two") and Kacey Musgraves ("Follow Your Arrow") on top of releasing her own critically acclaimed and Grammy-nominated albums. On Clark's previous records, her country songs were primarily character driven, full of observant details about the lives of ordinary people that Clark either knew or imagined. But on "Your Life is a Record," which came out in March, Clark reflected inward not only on her breakup, but her career in country music as well.

"The country radio door didn't swing wide open for me like I would have loved for it to," said Clark, who is among the many female artists who have struggled to gain traction in country radio in recent years. "I'm just gonna make a record that is the most creative record I could make."

She started by restricting herself in the studio to acoustic instruments and a small trio of musicians. Those included multi-instrumentalists Giles Reaves and Jedd Hughes and her producer Jay Joyce. They added a cinematic flair to the songs of loss and love with help from Memphis strings and horn musicians, orchestrated by prominent Stax Records session musician Lester Snell.

"When you think of those horns and strings, to me it starts to feel big," Clark said. "And Jay did a really good job of pulling me back because my instinct was to sing harder."

Influenced by the soulful R&B sounds of the classic 1970s record "Dusty in Memphis" by Dusty Springfield, Clark whispers her desires on songs like "Love Is a Fire," backed by delicate swells of strings and tinkling pianos.

One of Clark's longtime songwriting partners, hit country songwriter and producer Shane McAnally, said that Clark went looking for more universal themes about relationships for this record. They co-wrote "Love Is a Fire," and "Who Broke Whose Heart."

"I just don't know anybody who is better at telling a story with just few words," said McAnally. "She's serving the song and the story, and then she gets out of the way."

Folk icon John Prine, who died Tuesday, inspired her to write the song "Who You Thought I Was," after he remarked at an Americana awards show that "I'm John Prine, but I'd like to go back to being who you thought I was."

But one of the biggest left turns on the record is a duet with Randy Newman, famous for his Oscar-winning film compositions and wry musical songs. Clark pitched a song she wrote called "Bigger Boat" to Newman, who agreed to do it if he could cut out a curse word. "He said, 'I changed that line. I don't want to say that word, and my line is better anyway,'" Clark said with a laugh.

The song is full of the witty, sarcastic and subtle political lyrics that Newman has made all his career, as well as a number of references to films like "Titanic" and "Jaws."

"A lot of my stuff is heavy," Clark said. "And so you need those little moments of levity. My philosophy is, life is a dark comedy."



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

REVIEW



Brandy Clark

Your Life Is a Record (Warner Bros.)

Brandy Clark has had a nice business going for the past decade as a Nashville songwriter to the stars.

Finding a wide audience for her own recordings has been a little trickier for Clark. Neither her first album, 2013's "12 Stories" (whose title is a nod to Randy Newman's "12 Songs"), nor 2016's "Big Day in a Small Town" set the world on fire, commercially speaking. But both were remarkable collections that displayed an eye for detail, capacity for empathy and a wry sense of humor that marked her as a writer's writer, the kind of songsmith who fills her peers with envy.

"Your Life Is a Record" follows a four-year break, and the end of a 15-year relationship that works its way into enough of the 11 emotionally sung and played songs here to qualify it as Clark's most personal album by far.

Her light touch is apparent everywhere on the set produced by Jay Joyce, starting with the opener, "I'll Be The Sad Song," and on through the "Bigger Boat," a lighthearted song about society falling apart that features a froggish guest vocal by Newman.

Clark's subtle approach is evident on "Pawn Shop," a saga about giving up on dreams that avoids clichés. And best of all is "Who You Thought I Was," which gets at heartbreak where it really hurts, with the realization that the wonderful person you were as seen through your ex's eyes is now gone for good.

—Dan DeLuca
The Philadelphia Inquirer

WEEKEND: MUSIC

APPRECIATION



TNS

Adam Schlesinger performs with Fountains of Wayne in 2007.

Adam Schlesinger wrote great songs – and helped us get why we loved them

By ALYSSA ROSENBERG
The Washington Post

“You can take all the novels in the world,” argued Alex Fletcher, the washed-up singer-songwriter played by Hugh Grant in the 2007 romantic comedy “Music and Lyrics,” “and not one of them will make you feel as good as last as: ‘I’ve got sunshine / On a cloudy day.’”

Alex was stating a general principle about the value of pop music. But he could have been talking about musician and songwriter Adam Schlesinger, who wrote many of the best original tracks for “Music and Lyrics,” along with other movies and television shows, and who co-founded the bands Fountains of Wayne and Ivy. Schlesinger, who died of complications from a covid-19 infection on April 2 at age 52, had a gift for making his listeners feel that good, that fast.

Schlesinger is probably most famous for “Stacy’s Mom,” a horny, goofy and totally infectious hit from Fountains of Wayne’s 2003 album “Welcome Interstate Managers.” Reviewing the record for Pitchfork, Mark Martelli pondered whether Schlesinger and his bandmates were making music that was too much fun for listeners’ good. Fun wasn’t the only thing Schlesinger had on that album: “Bright Future in Sales” is a brutal takedown of corporate life, while “Hackensack” is a dreamy lament from a boy left behind by his famous sweet-heart. And his sharply tuned ear for both catchiness and emotion meant that Schlesinger could do something rare: He wrote songs that were not only wonderful but also could help you understand what it was that you loved about an entire genre of music.

Schlesinger first appeared that talent in “That Thing You Do!,” the titular song for Tom Hanks’ directorial debut about a one-hit wonder band from Erie, Pa. The track is pure nostalgia for the pop music of 1964, and it shows just how powerful the combination of repetition, innuendo and innocence that powered early

Beatles songs can be. The song never clarifies what “that thing you do” is, leaving space for the listener to fill in the blank. But the sense of yearning it evokes is immediately, universally familiar.

No one needs to make the case for the musical value of 1960s pop anymore. But Schlesinger didn’t stop there: He had the musical intelligence to see what was compelling in genres of music that other people derided, and a respect for the power of pop that made him strive for greatness where others might have slacked off.

“Josie and the Pussycats,” the 2001 movie about the girl band from Archie Comics, is entirely disposable. The songs Schlesinger wrote and produced for it are not. “Pretend to Be Nice,” a lament by a girl whose boyfriend takes her for granted and constantly tears her down, balances perky arrangement with a real sense of exhaustion and desperation.

For “Music and Lyrics,” Schlesinger saw through the bad hair of ‘80s groups like Wham! and the sexed-up merchandising of ‘90s stars like Britney Spears and Christina Aguilera, and he wrote songs that acknowledged the emotional quality that makes those genres so appealing. The lyrics “I need inspiration / Not just another negotiation” may be sung by the movie’s flaky teen pop goddess, but they’re a succinct and mature statement of what a good relationship looks like.

And Schlesinger’s musical voraciousness was most obvious in his work on “Crazy Ex-Girlfriend,” a show for which he wrote or co-wrote songs that channeled everything from Cole Porter to New Jack Swing and from Filipino karaoke to Motown. Rachel Bloom, who co-created and starred in the series, described him as “irreplaceable.”

Schlesinger made us happier and smarter. Now that he’s gone, all I can hear is the silence left behind.



Red Light Management

COUNTRY STAR SAM HUNT

By MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

Sam Hunt’s sophomore album opens and closes with two of the most personal songs he’s ever written, as he draws from his own life to paint candid portraits for listeners.

But the country star admits he wavers when it comes to spilling his own tea in song form.

“I’m torn at times about how much of my own life I want to put out there,” he said.

“Southside,” the 35-year-old’s sophomore album out April 3, opens with “2016,” a remorseful, rueful song that recounts a variety of misdeeds, including chasing other women. It evokes classic country with lyrics like: “Put the tears back in your eyes / ‘Cause all my lies could still come true.” The album closes with “Drinkin’ Too Much,” a confessional apology where he namedrops his wife. Hunt, who apologized last November after he was arrested for driving under the influence, released the song on SoundCloud in 2017 a couple months before they were married.

“Sometimes you hear a song or a lyric and you say, ‘OK, this person couldn’t have made that up; that has to be really about them,’” he said. “The whole honesty is the best policy approach is what I end up circling back to, especially in this genre of music that has always been described as three chords and the truth.”

Not all of the 11-track “Southside” is a first-person narrative: “It’s definitely not autobiographical.”

In an interview with The Associated Press, Hunt — whose multi-hit, Grammy-nominated 2014 debut “Montevallo” was named after the hometown his wife grew up in — talks about getting deep on songs and testing the waters with pop and rap producers like Diplo and Murda Beatz, who worked on Drake’s massive hit “Nice for What.”

AP: “2016” is a poignant story. Was it hard to write?

Hunt: Yeah, that one is the closest thing to a more honest reflection on my own life experience over the past two years. It touches on a story that I

talked about publicly, in terms of what I had going on between putting out the last record and putting out this record, especially year three and four. This song touches on that a little bit and kind of closes the chapter I think more than anything.

“Drinking Too Much” reminds me of Usher’s “Confession” from 2004. Did you purposely put it at the end of the album?

I think it’s the only place on the record where it felt appropriate. It just didn’t feel right to put it anywhere else.

The biggest conflict I ever had was about putting that song out. Now that I have put that song out, it’s a lot easier to put out songs that are more honest. That was about as honest of a song as I’ll ever put out, or I could ever put out.

Your wife is playing the piano on the song?

I didn’t want to make a big deal over it, but I wanted her to. I wanted the song to have her blessing. Just her playing that part, I felt like it brought an energy of healing to the song — more than anything, her approval of it. I wanted to end the song on a hopeful note. I didn’t want it to be a complete down-and-outer. I wanted the listener to hear the redemption in the song and not just ... the dark place that the guy’s in as he’s singing it.

It’s also nice to somehow involve the person you’re singing about in the song.

Yeah. Feels like it could be exploitative. That’s the main thing I wanted to avoid is doing that, or it even feeling like that.

What was it like trying out recording sessions with pop and hip-hop producers?

I wanted to branch out and find some new inspiration. One of the beauties of writing with the same two people for a long period of time is that you really get to know each other and there’s a level of comfort in the room. There’s a clear understanding of what I would say and how we should approach writing the song. At the same time, you can get too comfortable with your co-writers, so it’s nice to experiment with bringing new people in, writing with new producers to find some new inspiration.

That’s what I was attempting to do for a time there. I wrote with some great writers and wrote with some great producers. (But I never found that click the way I did with Zach [Crowell].)

Who were some of the people you worked with?

I worked with Diplo a little bit, trying to find the right song or the right sound. Another girl, Sasha Sloan (Camila Cabello) ... Sasha is one of the best writers I’ve written with in the past, or ever, really. A guy named Charlie Handsome (Post Malone, Kanye West) was in town for a few weeks, somebody introduced me to him.

Your wedding anniversary is this month — how will you celebrate, since we’ll still be stuck at home?

I have thought about it. I don’t have a plan yet. I’m sure I’ll have to be something creative. ... We both do pretty well at the house. At least we have each other to keep each other company.

WEEKEND: BOOKS

DEEP DIVE

For new memoir, 'More Myself: A Journey,' Alicia Keys looks to the past to find herself

By MESFIN FEKADU
Associated Press

As a young woman growing up in the 1980s and '90s in New York City's Hell's Kitchen — “the name was exactly accurate for what it looked like, what it felt like,” as Alicia Keys recalls it — the budding musician born Alicia Cook would purposely wear baggy clothing and Timberland boots as she walked to and from the one-bedroom apartment she lived in with her mother.

She didn't wear bright colors. She didn't wear her hair in a way that would warrant attention. She wouldn't even paint her nails.

A self-proclaimed tomboy, part of Keys' look was her own preference. The other part — the major one — was for her own protection.

“There were pimps and prostitutes everywhere. There were those XXX-theaters everywhere. ... Besides that, heroin addicts, crack addicts, drug addicts — those streets were filled with all those people and all those situations,” Keys told The Associated Press in a recent interview. “As a young woman, I definitely learned early how to call the least attention to myself possible. How could I get through those spaces unnoticed?”

“In order to do that, I was definitely not about having some bright clothes on or some short skirt on or some long nails on,” she added. “That was the antithesis of what I had to do in order to be separate from that space that I was walking in.”

It worked, and allowed Keys, the daughter of a single mother, to take trains in the city to school and to play music unbothered while her mother worked long hours. It's just one of the many telling stories the Grammy-winning superstar shares in her new book, “More Myself: A Journey.”

“More Myself” takes readers from Keys' childhood to her breakthrough debut in 2001 to where she stands now — on the heels of her seventh studio album “ALICIA” (out May 15) with a multi-dimensional career and a strong family life with hubby-musician Swizz Beatz and two kids.

She spent the next two years writing the book, taking time to deeply reflect on her

life and bare it all. She opens up about her mother wrestling with the decision to keep her child after finding out she was pregnant after just briefly dating Keys' father, and decades later, Keys learning she was already four months pregnant with her second child, and her own decision to keep the baby even though she said it came at “the worst time ever” since she was working on a new album and her husband had gotten into Harvard Business School. She also said she had been drinking a lot.

In “More Myself,” she also uncovers her songwriting process, her interactions with legends Stevie Wonder and Prince, who critiqued her sound at one of her shows; and her longtime and hidden relationship with producer Kerry Brothers Jr., who worked on Keys' first four albums, including the hits “Diary” and “No One.”

She also recalls feeling burnt out after releasing her sophomore album; her tumultuous relationship with her father; first meeting her now-husband

when they were teenage musicians; and even fielding questions about her sexuality early in her career.

“How many times do you actually look back on things and have enough space between it to realize how it affects what you're doing now, or whatever you want to start to do now? Honestly, I feel really good. Even the timing of this all, with where we are on the planet, feels right. It feels like the right conversation,” Keys said. “I want people to get into it. We're all on that journey. It's my personal story, but it applies to everybody.”

Keys credits her mother, who at 19 left Toledo, Ohio, to pursue her acting career in New York, and the piano gifted to them with helping her fall in love with music, and wanting to take it on professionally.

Keys even dropped out of Columbia University, forgoing a scholarship, to pursue her career and first record deal at, funnily enough, Columbia Records. But things didn't work out and she eventually parted ways with

the label. Later, she signed with Clive Davis and his J Records label imprint through Sony. Davis wrote Oprah Winfrey about his new signee and asked her to book Keys for her top-rated talk show. After watching Keys perform, she did.

Almost 20 years later, Winfrey and Keys are close friends, and “More Myself” is being released through the media icon's An Oprah Book imprint via Platinon Books.

“I feel like a mother, sister, friend to her. I feel in many ways the kind of kinship, admiration and adoration that Maya (Angelou) felt for me, I feel toward her. I felt it from the very first moment that she hit that key on my show and she did ‘Fallin.’ I was in awe of this young woman,” Winfrey said. “It's not until actually reading her book that I knew that we were such real kindred spirits. In reading her book, I feel and see so much of myself in her story, even though it's not the same story. I'm hoping that other people will see the same.”

Winfrey is one of the famous faces, and friends, who help introduce the chapters in “More Myself”; other participants include Keys' parents, Swizz Beatz, Michelle Obama, Bono and Jay-Z.

“Her whole story is about a woman learning how to fuel the flames of her own heart's desire. So that when she says, ‘This girl is on fire’ — that is coming from a real truthful space,” Winfrey said. “I'm so happy with the way that it turned out.”

Part autobiography, part narrative documentary, Alicia Keys' “More Myself: A Journey,” was released March 31.

TAYLOR JEWELL, INVISION/AP



WEEKEND: BOOKS

Author's focus on pandemic feels prescient

By SUZANNE BERNE
Special To The Washington Post

What could be more suspenseful right now than the question of whether a viral disease, released into the world, can be contained? In a time filled with unnerving ironies and coincidences, another author in Chris Bohjalian's most recent novel, "The Red Lotus," which delves into biologically engineered pathogens and the possibility that profiteers and unscrupulous laboratory scientists have created a plague for sale.

Bohjalian specializes in well-researched, topical thrillers with complex plots and flawed but principled heroes struggling with some of the world's most intractable problems. His 21 novels have involved homelessness, animal rights, human trafficking and genocide, to name just a few; several have also focused on ethical issues in alternative medicine, from midwifery to homeopathy. But with "The Red Lotus," he has managed to be topical in a way he could not have predicted.

Set over 10 days in Vietnam and New York, the novel opens with Alexis Remnick, a young ER doctor, waiting by a hotel pool not far from Da Nang for her boyfriend, Austin, to return from a bike trip into the mountains. This is the last day of their bike tour (his idea), a kind of pilgrimage to honor his father and uncle's service in Vietnam. That morning he rode alone to the Hai Van Pass, to be near "where his father had been wounded and his uncle had died."

But now he's late. A promising beginning, with a cold splash of dread, although we discover almost immediately what happens to Austin. Not so Alexis, who sets out on a panicked search for him with the tour leaders. They find nothing but several innocuous-looking Psych energy gels lying on the mountain road where Austin had been

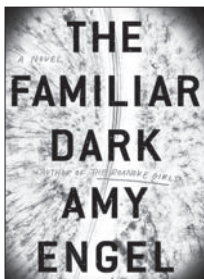
biking. After Austin's body is recovered the next day by the Vietnamese police, who determine that he was the victim of a hit and run, Alexis takes those gels home to New York, along with Austin's other effects, and tries to return to work. Yet she is haunted by doubts. It's now clear that Austin lied to her about his father's military service, but why? Then she discovers his laptop has been "wiped clean." Also, what to make of the strange skewer-like puncture wound on the back of his hand, which she noticed while identifying his body at the morgue? And were those really cat bites on his fingertips?

Growing increasingly suspicious, she enlists the aid of a private investigator recommended by his former boss, Sally Douglas, the hospital's chief fundraiser. Sally's office happens to be near a laboratory that conducts research on rats; she's also having an affair with Douglas, Austin's dirt-playing friend from the bar, an inexplicably wealthy travel writer and obvious bad guy.

Meanwhile in Vietnam, Quang, a police captain, deduces that Austin's death

might be linked to the death of a Vietnamese food chemist and a fire at her lab, which happened around the same time. To further complicate matters, we keep receiving detailed dispatches about rats as disease carriers from a mysterious first-person source, speaking in italics. We are also reminded, periodically, that Alexis still has those Psych gels.

I'm not giving away as much of the story as it seems: The plot becomes labyrinthine as we move back and forth between New York and Vietnam, joined by more characters and more unsettling facts about rats. Especially rats as laboratory subjects infected with pathogens. Alexis' unhappy childhood and her history with self-harm are added to the mix, which tangles the story further, though readers who crave suspense will get it, along with a grim chill from reading about a plague while COVID-19, the disease caused by the coronavirus, menaces the world. They will get, as well, a resolution that swiftly unearths the many narrative threads, metes out punishments to the evil and (mostly) spares the good.



The Familiar Dark
Amy Engel

Eve Taggart, a waitress in the impoverished town of Barren Springs in the Missouri Ozarks, knows firsthand how love can be transformative. Raised in a volatile home by a drug-dealing single mother with a "pendant for casual violence" and a string of brutal boyfriends, Eve went through her wild phase, not caring what people thought. After all, she reasoned, people already looked down on her. Her only stability in life has been her older brother, Cal, who protected her as a child and now as an adult.

Then Eve had June — the result of a one-night stand — and her world changed. Eve gave up drinking to excess and watched what she said and did so not to embarrass or reflect badly on June. But now 12-year-old June is dead — murdered along with her best friend, Izzy Logan. Now Eve isn't concerned what anyone thinks of her, or if her investigation causes her harm, or worse. Eve is out to get revenge for her daughter, tapping into the darkness within her.

From its gripping beginning to its sobering finale, "The Familiar Dark" never fails to enthrall with surprising twists.

—Oline Cogdill/AP



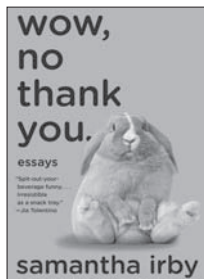
It's Not All Downhill From Here
Terry McMillan

Loretta "Lo" Curry is pushing 70 years old and has no plans to slow down. Her beauty business is a huge success, her close circle of friends are available any time of day, and even though her family is a bit dysfunctional, she can always count on her husband, Carl, to make her feel like a million bucks.

Lo's sparkling outlook on life dampens thanks to a terrible tragedy. As the days unfold, Lo's confidence plummets and the weight of her "golden years" feels suffocating.

Her friends swoop in at full force. They are quick to share that they too suffer from their own struggles. Since each one brings a different strength to the table, the friends will rely on one another to remind them who they were meant to be. "It's Not All Downhill From Here" is a story about the ups and downs of family and the consistency of deep friendships. McMillan proves once again that she is a skilled master at writing dialogue for strong, intelligent women who know how to laugh in the face of tragedy instead of being consumed by it.

—Lincee Ray/AP



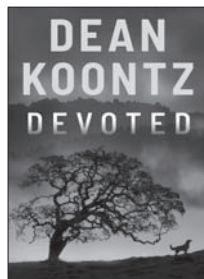
Wow, No Thank You
Samantha Irby

In her third book of essays, the honest and self-deprecating Irby muses on everything from her approach to step-parenting (avoid the children at all costs) to the pressure of caring for the "smelly, inevitably decaying body" that (she) never asked for. "In the months she avoided replying to an email from a 'very famous person.'"

Irby, who made a name for herself with her blog, *Bitches Gotta Eat*, has become quite the famous person herself these days. Now, as she says in the book, she can move a bunch of stuff off her Amazon wish list and into the main cart. Despite her rise in star status, though, her fresh, unique writing is as raucous and relatable as ever.

"Wow, No Thank You" is Irby's exploration of life as a full-grown adult, navigating questions like "do people clean their roofs or does the rain just take care of it," her fresh, unique writing is as raucous and relatable as ever. Irby is a delight to spend time with. "Wow, No Thank You" is the perfect read at a time when we all could use a little comic relief.

—Molly Sprayregen/AP



Devoted
Dean Koontz

Kipp, a 3-year-old golden retriever, is no ordinary dog. He is one of the "Mysterium dogs" living in California with a big secret: They can't speak, but they are as intelligent as human beings.

The Mysterium dogs stay in touch with each other telepathically. One day, Kipp hears a strange murmur that seems to come from a human boy. The boy seems to need help, so Kipp goes to find him.

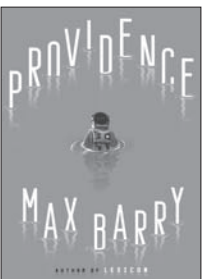
Kipp is picked up by Ben Hawkins, a good-hearted novelist and former Navy SEAL. Hawkins follows the dog's unspoken directions and delivers Kipp to the boy's home some 80 miles away. And just in time, too.

The boy, Woody Bookman, and his widowed mother, Megan, have just been terrorized by one of the evil people intent on killing them. Why? Woody has found evidence that his father didn't die from a freak accident. He was murdered.

Kipp learns all this from Woody, who can communicate with Mysterium dogs, and plots to defeat the villains.

"Devoted" has every mark of a classic.

—Waka Tsunoda/AP



Providence
Max Barry

A crew of research scientists makes first contact with an alien species of creatures that look like salamanders and it all goes horribly wrong. The violence is captured on video, and now Earth is at war.

Seven years into the battle, four people go through training to be chosen as the crew of the Providence Five, a warship designed for long-term travel and support for soldiers on the front. The four are chosen for their knowledge of weaponry, engineering talents, ability to not panic in tense situations and how they appear on the cameras back home. It's a reality show set in outer space, and the ship itself is run by artificial intelligence. The long periods of isolation and vast space take their toll anyway, and they soon struggle with their tasks and patience with each other. It becomes difficult for them to interact without distrust, paranoia and hostility. It doesn't help that even after all this time, the enemy's motives remain a mystery.

Ultimately, "Providence" is really about how we can all overcome adversity even when answers and resolutions are not clear-cut.

—Jeff Ayers/AP

WEEKEND: TELEVISION & DVD

NEW ON DVD

“Just Mercy”: Young, idealistic Harvard Law grad Bryan Stevenson (Michael B. Jordan) moves to Alabama after spending a summer interning there and witnessing a taste of the massive disparities and racism of its criminal justice system. With the help of a local woman, Eva Ansley (Brie Larson), he establishes the Equal Justice Initiative and sets out to help those on death row fight for their lives. One of those prisoners is Walter McMillian (Jamie Foxx), a black man who was wrongfully accused of murdering a white woman. (The film is based on Stevenson’s memoir, “Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption.”) McMillian is incredulous, as Stevenson has only just begun to experience the threatening uphill battles created by those in local power.

Director Destin Daniel Cretton and director of photography Brett Pawlak deftly put the audience into the claustrophobic discomfort the men face, physically and mentally. They offer an empathetic lens into how their traumatic injustices add up, often leading to perhaps the most devastating kind of imprisonment: within one’s wounded mind.

Although the dialogue tends to hit the typical legal docudrama beats a little too hard and a little too on the nose, leaving the characters feeling somewhat superficial, the film is most effective in the quiet moments in which the audience can sit with the vast, tragic implications of what Stevenson, McMillian and others are facing.

“The film portrays the ferocious resistance of some people to the possibility that this man had nothing to do with the crime,” wrote critic Kenneth Turan in his *Los Angeles Times* review. “And that’s when ‘Just Mercy’ is at its best.”

Also available on DVD **“Underwater”**: After an earthquake damages their trench facility, a team of researchers struggles to get back to the surface safely. Kristen Stewart stars.

“Criminal Minds: The Final Season”: The long-running hit CBS procedural crime drama comes to an end.

“Final Kill”: A mercenary must protect a couple from a crime family in Costa Rica. Stars Billy Zane, Randy Couture and Ed Morrone.

“The Righteous Gemstones: Season 1”: A televangelist family fights to protect their mega-church empire in this HBO sitcom. Stars John Goodman, Danny McBride, Adam Devine and Ed Patterson.

“Fantasy Island”: As guests at a tropical resort must uncover a mystery to leave a remote island, their paradise turns into a nightmare. Look for it on DVD and Blu-ray May 12.

“The Rhythm Section”: A grieving woman (Blake Lively) seeks revenge after a premeditated attack on a plane kills her family. Out on DVD and Blu-ray April 28.

— Katie Foran-McHale/TNS



Jean-Luc Picard (Patrick Stewart) and Data (Brent Spiner) meet again in the CBS All Access series “Star Trek: Picard,” which premieres Friday on AFN-Spectrum.

Enduring the test of time

Star Trek’s Data defies both death, age in CBS All Access’ ‘Picard’

By MICHAEL SHERIDAN
New York Daily News

In the final frontier, no character ever really dies. Just ask Brent Spiner. In 2002’s “Star Trek Nemesis,” the actor bid farewell to the character of Data when the beloved android was blown up after saving Captain Jean-Luc Picard and the crew of the USS Enterprise.

Time travel nearly 20 years later, and Ol’ Yellow Eyes is back playing opposite Patrick Stewart in the CBS All Access series “Star Trek: Picard,” which premieres Friday on AFN-Spectrum.

“It was certainly unexpected,” Spiner told the Daily News as the coronavirus kept him self-isolated in Los Angeles.

The 71-year-old said he was initially reticent to reprise the role because he feared that, after 18 years, he couldn’t pull off a character who doesn’t age.

“I am too old to play the part,” he said bluntly.

That fear was nullified, however, when he was assured some simple CGI trickery would help make him seem ageless. That didn’t, however, erase all of Spiner’s concerns. The character, he argued, had a well-crafted story arc over the years that ended with his death, and he was afraid of messing that up.

“I was not really confident it was a good idea for me to do it,” he said. “I was concerned it would wipe out everything we’d done before.”

However, once he learned what the show’s creators had in mind for the character, he agreed.

“I bowed with respect to the creators of

‘It was surreal. I hadn’t looked at Captain Picard and he hadn’t looked at Data in 18 years, and there we were looking at each other again.’

Brent Spiner
Data in the Star Trek series

this show, who are all phenomenal talents,” Spiner said.

He was also persuaded to participate in the new show by the chance of getting to play another, different character.

In addition to Data, the Texas-born actor also plays Dr. Altan Inigo Soong, the son of the scientist who created the android. Spiner has, in various incarnations of Trek, played different members of the Soong family.

This new role was a closely-held secret until the end of the run of “Picard” state-side.

“We all signed NDAs, which also meant that if we revealed anything, we’d go to prison; that was a heavy influence on the secrecy,” Spiner joked. But really, he added, we “wanted the fans to have some fun surprises, and didn’t want to give everything away up front.”

Did he find keeping quiet on his expanded role difficult in this age of social media?

“I just lied,” he quipped with his usual dry humor.

Getting the opportunity to play a new role, and revisit an old one, wasn’t the only thing that brought Spiner to “Star Trek: Picard.”

It was the chance to work once again with Stewart.

One of the first scenes the two filmed together for the show had Data and Captain Picard playing a game of poker in a re-created set from “Star Trek: The Next Generation.”

“It was surreal,” Spiner said. “I hadn’t looked at Captain Picard and he hadn’t looked at Data in 18 years, and there we were, looking at each other again.”

The reunion was emotional for both him and Stewart, he said.

“There were many different feelings going on,” he said. It was “odd, and emotional and wonderful and strange; it was all of the above.”

Of course, as unique as it was for the two actors to reunite on the small screen in these iconic roles, the two have always remained close. In fact, the entire “Next Generation” cast has famously maintained a close-knit relationship for more than 30 years.

“We do actually get together fairly often,” Spiner said. “If not all of us at the same time, we all see each other individually quite a bit.”

What’s the secret to their friendship?

“When we were doing the series, we were on sound stages almost every day for almost 10 months, and we laughed all day long,” he said. “We all amused each other, and we still do, and that’s gone a long way, and I think we’ll all probably be friends forever.”

Like that friendship, Spiner believes Star Trek, too, will endure the test of time.

“I think Star Trek will go on forever,” he said.

WEEKEND: FAMILY



Couples in quarantine

More time together putting stress on marriages

By KEVYN BURGER
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

“I was thinking we could adopt a puppy while we’re all at home,” said Joanne Moffitt, with a teasing tone in her voice.

“Uh, that’s a no,” replied her husband, Les.

Had the coronavirus not erupted, the Burnsville, Minn., couple and their two children would be on a spring break trip to the Grand Canyon. Instead, they’re home, spending more time together than they have in 15 years of marriage.

“I think this is great. Now I have a sous chef,” said Les, who does most of the cooking.

“I do know how to chop,” said Joanne, adding, “I cleaned the oven yesterday. That’s a first.”

Typically they are tag team parents, taking turns supervising kids’ homework and bedtime rituals around their work schedules.

Joanne, 44, is a dental hygienist who routinely works evenings, and Les, 43, a high school teacher, is often away on weekends at matches with the quiz bowl teams he coaches.

But now, like millions of couples, the Moffitts must navigate a new reality, one that requires them to be together 24/7.

How spouses manage is creating a real-life experiment that fascinates Bill Doherty, a professor of family social science at the University of Minnesota.

“We have no idea where this will take us. We are programmed to manage brief emergencies, not long ones,” said Doherty.

Doherty began studying couples in 1978 and has since trained scores of marriage and family therapists, so he’s well positioned to offer marital advice, including how to bear it when your beloved begins to grate on your nerves.

His recommendation is a technical term used by counselors: externalizing the problem.

“That means to understand that what’s happening between the two of you is coming from something

Tips for keeping the marital peace

Being in very close quarters with the one you’re closest to can cause friction. Here’s more advice on keeping the peace from professor of family social science Bill Doherty:

- Get into a new routine and stick to it. Sameness makes life more predictable, which is reassuring.
- Allow yourself some personal time. Talk with your partner and figure out how both of you can schedule some solo time. Too much togetherness can lead to irritability. Find your boundaries and keep some distance.
- Don’t isolate yourselves. Spend time individually connecting with friends and loved ones on the phone or online. Create some social outlets as a couple, such as virtual happy hours or online game nights.
- Let go of the little stuff.
- Ask for what you need.
- We all need to vent, especially in times of uncertainty. Listen with empathy when your partner needs to unload. Don’t criticize him or her if their coping mechanisms are different from yours.
- Regard the domestic stage and the action playing out between you with good humor. Try to imagine that you and your spouse are in a sitcom, not a drama.

outside you,” he said. “You’re in the bunker together and you can rally together to defeat an external threat.”

Whether they realize it or not, Doherty said, most couples have settled into roles in the relationship, which are playing out now.

“Hardly any two people respond to crises in the same way,” he said. “Over the years, when a parent is sick or they’ve faced a big money problem, one has become the worry warrior and the other is the soother. One ramps up and the other tamps down.”

Doherty advises couples to try to “accept your different emotional responses and that your spouse will deal with uncertainty according to their nature. If you can’t see that, it’s a recipe for needless conflict.”

Couples can also look to friends and family members who are retired to see how they made the adjustment to spending much more time together.

“They have to learn how to build in structure for separate time,” he said.

And if there were ever a time to cut your significant other some slack, this is it.

It’s a given that you will get on each other’s nerves.

Joanne said she hasn’t reached that point yet.

What will she do when it does happen? Les is likely to be banished downstairs to his “man cave.”

Instead of banishment, Doherty recommends taking the high road.

“See it as normal, not a reflection on your relationship,” he said. “Your spouse is not more annoying than you thought; you’re just around them more.”

At any given time, about a quarter of all spouses are thinking about divorce. For those who are experiencing serious discord, Doherty warns that now is not the time to make a decision about the fate of a marriage.

“Unless there’s a physical threat, declare a cease-fire. You can put your problems back on the table later. Right now, just get through this,” he said.

The Moffitts are managing this unprecedented turn with their good humor intact.

They’ve settled into a routine, watching their kids ride their bikes in the cul-de-sac, playing canasta and looking forward to fishing season.

“We are boring and pretty content with each other,” said Les. “We will come through this the same. How could it get any better?”

“Aw, heck, listen to you!” joked Joanne. “I give him the remote and we live in peace.”

THE MEAT AND POTATOES OF LIFE

Lisa Smith Molinari



Doomed to Zoom from our rooms

Recently, a television jingle got stuck in my head. It’s from a PBS kid’s show I used to watch in the 1970s. My brain’s recesses are imprinted with hazy flashes of the program’s ethnically diverse cast of pre-teens dressed in matching striped shirts and bell bottoms, singing the opening sequence’s jazzy theme song.

I don’t recall much about the show’s content, other than lessons on how to speak “Ubbi Dubbi,” Zoom’s secret Pig Latin language. But two memories are clear as a bell 45 years later: An image of Bernadette, an Asian American cast member who performed a swirling arm trick that many kids in the 1970s (myself included) tried to imitate — and the jazzy theme song, of course.

“Come on and zooma-zooma-zooma-zoom. You’ve gotta zooma-zooma-zooma-zoom,” the song implored. “Everybody’s doin’ it, everybody’s movin’ it, everybody’s havin’ a ball. Yeah!” it went on.

Why is this silly tune stuck in my head now? Because ever since the coronavirus confined us to our homes, the use of the word “zoom” has multiplied as exponentially as the virus itself. Every time I hear it, the old jingle overtakes my psyche and I have the urge to do Bernadette’s swirly arm trick.

Today’s frequent utterances of “zoom” have nothing to do with the kids’ show Zoom, which is the brand name of a modern-day video communications company founded in 2011 that offers web conferencing, has become a household term across the world.

Some prominent company names like “Xerox,” “Kleenex” and “Google” took years to morph into common terms used in everyday language. But thanks to the global pandemic, “zoom” has become a verb meaning “to meet online via computer video that resembles an episode of Hollywood Squares” in a matter of weeks.

For example, “My book club is going to zoom on Thursday night.” Or, “Jim in accounting is zooming into the staff meeting at two-thirty today.” Or, “I’ll zoom with you after I check to see if the grocery store restocked the frozen peas and wipe the house down with bleach for the fifth time this week.”

This is our new normal. On one hand, I see the value in this new form of communication. “Zooming” brings exciting potential to families enduring separations from loved ones. But on the other hand, my instincts tell me that the novelty of video conferencing will wear off quickly.

Frankly, I’m already annoyed.

Prior to the pandemic, I was already spending too much of my day looking at screens. As a writer who works primarily from home, I stare at my laptop for hours typing, searching for interesting topics, Googling relevant words, answering emails and submitting articles. It’s actually a treat for me to do yard work, run errands or take long walks so I can focus on things that are more than 15 inches from my face.

After the pandemic hit, I thought my job wouldn’t change much. But then, everyone started saying “zoom,” and I was suddenly spending more time on the computer than ever before.

Via Zoom, I’ve shared cocktails with hometown friends while binge-watching Season 3 of “Ozark.” I’ve caught up with Navy friends from the comforts of our respective couches. I’ve attended an impromptu family reunion. I’ve participated in Zoom staff meetings for my part-time library job, pets and babies included.

Tonight, when I would normally be prone with a glass of wine watching a movie with my husband, I’ll be clicking into a 9 p.m. Zoom meeting with about a dozen military spouses I met during our tour in Stuttgart, Germany, 12 years ago.

Zoom is the new classroom, boardroom, playroom, wardrobe. Pour a beverage to consume, turn up the volume, and wear a costume. Because during this pandemic, it’s assumed. We’re all doomed to zoom.

Read more of Lisa Smith Molinari’s columns at: themeatandpotatoesoflife.com
Email: meatandpotatoesoflife@googlemail.com

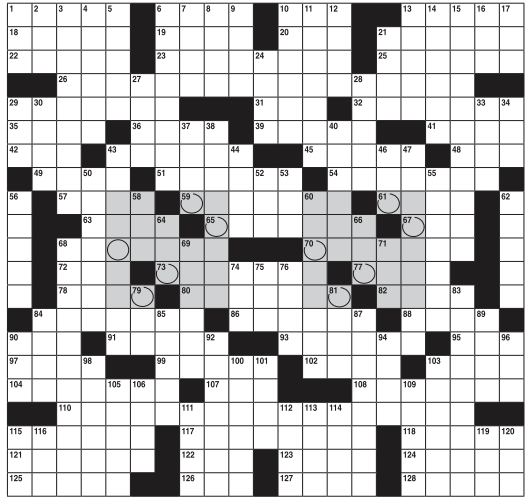
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

KEEP THE CHANGE BY RICKY CRUZ / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

Ricky Cruz, 22, of Glendale, Calif., is a video game concept artist — a maker of detailed designs for other artists to use when creating 3-D game environments. He says this puzzle is an attempt to turn a crossword “into a fun visual experience.” The unusual grid alone tells you something novel is up. This is Ricky's third puzzle for The Times, and his first Sunday. — W.S.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Company often cited in business studies about disruptive innovation
- 6 Barbecue applications
- 10 Center of an ear
- 13 Authorized
- 18 Superman, for one
- 19 Bit of Q.E.D.
- 20 Brian who created the Windows 95 start-up sound
- 21 Time-machine option
- 22 Binary, as some questions
- 23 Settled on
- 25 “Here’s the thing . . .”
- 26 Make heads or tails of a situation . . . or an alternative title for this puzzle
- 29 Like a pigsty
- 31 What an aglet is for a shoelace
- 32 Some pain relievers
- 33 Sharer’s word
- 36 ___ parm
- 39 Give a talking-to
- 41 Bit of letter-shaped hardware
- 42 Food catcher
- 43 Got misty-eyed, with “up”
- 45 Tricky maneuver
- 48 Bearded beast
- 49 Satellite signal receiver
- 51 Orange County’s ___ Beach
- 54 Whistle-blower in 2013 news
- 57 Donkey Kong and others
- 59 Dresses’ upper sections
- 61 Cherry, for one
- 63 College town in Iowa
- 67 Selfish sort
- 65 Units in linguistics
- 68 Home to the Alhambra
- 70 Confused
- 72 The invaders in Space Invaders, in brief
- 73 Things held up to the ear
- 77 Nobel and Pulitzer winner Morrison
- 78 Part of a mission
- 80 Unfavorable
- 82 Some coolers
- 84 Surgeon’s tool
- 86 Slowpokes
- 88 “30 for 30” network
- 90 Lab noise?
- 91 Lazy ___
- 93 Relied on no one else
- 95 [That knocked the wind out of me!]
- 97 Free offering from a cafe
- 99 Certain colors in printing
- 102 Beyoncé’s role in “The Lion King”
- 103 Having as a hobby
- 104 No-goodnik
- 107 ___ Tiki
- 108 One fighting against Thanos
- 110 Kind of visual puzzle . . . or what to do with each line in this puzzle’s two shaded areas
- 115 Location in the sections
- 116 Beach Boys’ “Kokomo”
- 117 Dog days of winter?
- 118 House-elf in the Harry Potter books
- 121 Any one of the Magi, to Jesus
- 122 Cousin of Inc.
- 123 Mount ___ much-hiked peak in Yosemite
- 124 Not hide one’s feelings
- 125 Appliance brand
- 126 Drano component
- 127 Site for handmade goods
- 128 Introduction
- DOWN**
- 1 Kick start?
- 2 World Cup cry
- 3 2007 Shia LaBeouf thriller or a 2008 No. 1 hit by Rihanna
- 4 Hero of a Virgil epic
- 5 Bit of raised land
- 6 Someone with all the desired qualities
- 7 Craving
- 8 “Eww, gross”
- 9 “Leave it be”
- 10 ___ the Entertainer (actor and comedian)
- 11 In addition to
- 12 [Out of nowhere!]
- 13 Nintendo character with a green cap
- 14 Summer complaint
- 15 State-of-the-art
- 16 Fuming state
- 17 X
- 21 Word before phone or book
- 24 Little salamanders
- 27 Word in the corner of a TV news broadcast
- 28 Paris’s Musée ___ (art museum)
- 29 No-goodnik
- 30 Pounds
- 33 Brooks & ___ (country duo)
- 34 Man’s nickname found in consecutive letters of the alphabet
- 37 Like about half of the OPEC countries
- 38 Danish tourist attraction since 1968
- 40 Tone down
- 43 Society at large
- 44 ___ ranch
- 46 Promoter of gender equality, for short
- 47 Like some tennis shots and most push-ups
- 50 No-frills
- 52 Strike out
- 53 Expert
- 55 Humdingers
- 56 The circled letters in the first shaded area
- 58 Title for many a W.H. aspirant



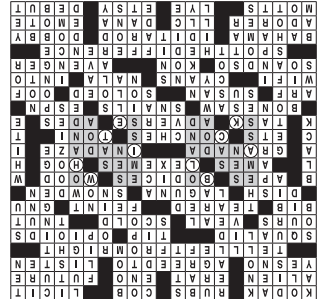
- 60 Substance discharged
- 62 The circled letters in the second shaded area
- 64 Ink container
- 66 Went unused
- 68 Manage to heave the ball before time expires
- 69 Dispense (with)
- 71 Hopeless from the start, slangily
- 74 Job seekers’ needs, in brief
- 75 Egg maker
- 76 Long stretches
- 79 The Golden Fishes of the Mid-American Conf.
- 81 Jazz’s Fitzgerald
- 83 Cartoon character who works at the Krusty Krab
- 84 Vin and vigor
- 85 Article of apparel that’s an anagram of other articles of apparel
- 87 Length of time between noons
- 89 Point out
- 90 Cries of disappointment
- 92 With full disclosure
- 94 Roof part
- 96 Supporting
- 98 Somewhat
- 100 “That didn’t work!”
- 101 “Vool mood
- 103 Earnings
- 105 Sights in the Jerusalem skyline
- 106 One of six in Subaru’s logo
- 109 Over
- 111 Bit of raised land
- 112 Direction in a film script
- 113 ___ bro
- 116 Supporting
- 118 Somewhat
- 119 Comic book onomatopoeia
- 120 Even so

GUNSTON STREET



“Gunston Street” is drawn by Basil Zaviski. Email him at gunstonstreet@yahoo.com, and visit gunstonstreet.com.

RESULTS FOR ABOVE PUZZLE



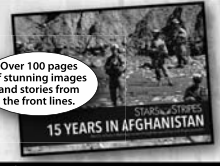
STARS & STRIPES 15 YEARS IN AFGHANISTAN



The story of the U.S. military's role in Afghanistan, as seen through the eyes of Stars and Stripes journalists covering America's longest war.

Only \$14.99 with Free Shipping

ORDER NOW at www.stripesstore.com



FACES

Lynn: Bond with Cline still strong

BY KRISTIN M. HALL
Associated Press

Patsy Cline and Loretta Lynn only knew each other a short time before Cline's death at the age of 30, but the friendship formed between two trailblazers of country music is enough to fill a book.

Lynn's new memoir, "Me and Patsy: Kicking Up Dust," which was released Tuesday, chronicles their bond as pioneering artists, as well friends who leaned on each other.

"We were two bad ones. If she'd still be around, we'd probably both be in the pen," said Lynn, 87, while laughing in a phone interview from her Tennessee home.

Cline, one of the most powerful and recognizable voices in country music, took the Kentucky singer-songwriter under her wing in the early '60s. The two became quick friends, bonding over their music, their marriages and motherhood. At the time they knew each other, Cline was reaching the peak of her career with cross-over hits like "Crazy," while Lynn was just starting out.

"Patsy was always there to tell me what was right and what was wrong," said Lynn. "She was my big sister that I never had."

Lynn, whose previous memoir "Coal Miner's Daughter" was a best-selling hit and adapted into a Golden Globe-winning film, co-wrote the new book with her daughter, Patsy Lynn Russell.

Lynn and Cline first met shortly after Cline was badly injured in a car accident in 1961, just months after releasing her song "I Fall To Pieces." Cline heard Lynn singing on the radio and asked her to come to the hospital to meet her.

Lynn was there for support when Cline struggled to hide her scars from the wreck. Cline also taught Lynn not to get pushed around by men in the business.

Cline was killed in a plane crash near Camden, Tenn., on March 5, 1963, as she was heading home from a show. In the book, Lynn recalls visiting by Cline's coffin at the family's visitation and hearing Cline still talking to her.

Lynn never stopped thinking about the advice Cline gave her and it guided her as her career blossomed in the '60s and '70s, becoming a huge star with hits like "The Pill" and "You Ain't Woman Enough." She recorded tribute albums for Cline after her death, wanting to make sure fans remembered the late singer.

Even five decades later, the bond remains strong for Lynn.

"She's on my mind all the time," she said. "A lot of times, not even expecting it, but I'll be sitting and thinking and I'll see her. I know a lot of people don't believe that, but she's with me all the time."



'Modern Family' memories

Series finale prompts tears, nostalgia from cast

BY LYNN ELBER
Associated Press

The group crying began after the final scene of the last episode of ABC's "Modern Family" was taped — with the notable exception of Ed O'Neill, who plays patriarch Jay Pritchett.

"I said, 'No tears?'" recalled his co-star, Jesse Tyler Ferguson. "He said, 'you know what? Things hit me in a really weird way. I'll be getting a facial in two weeks and, all of a sudden, I'll burst into tears.' And the only thing I took from that is, 'Ed gets facials!'"

After 11 seasons, the "Modern Family" actors who've come to know each other well — maybe minus spa treatments — compare saying goodbye to leaving high school. They marvel at the friction-free years they worked together and make plans to stay in touch, relying for now on digital group chats during the pandemic-imposed isolation.

In recent interviews, the cast and creators Steve Levitan and Christopher Lloyd shared favorite series moments and souvenirs they claimed. The two-part series finale of "Modern Family" airs Friday on AFN-Prime.

Great job, great memories

■ Whether high school seniors believe it or not, there's more and better relationships and experiences ahead of them, said Eric Stonestreet, who plays Cameron Tucker. But Stonestreet finds it hard to believe that's the case after graduating from "Modern Family": "We had a full-blown utopia, where we had a great group of people. We worked with professionals at the top of their game. And it's going to be hard to re-create that."

■ Jesse Tyler Ferguson, who plays Cam's partner and eventually husband Mitchell Pritchett, said it was the convergence of reality and fiction that resounded for him. In a "Modern Family" scene, Mitch is seen watching news footage that included his real-life spouse (actor-producer Justin Mikita) demonstrating for legalized same-sex marriage in California. "It felt very like a circle moment ... I couldn't believe that I got to be married in real life, and then later I got to get married again on TV in front of millions and millions of people. It felt very important."

■ "It was the combination of being critically acclaimed as well as popular that made for a heady mix," Lloyd said. "There's crazy milestones, like when Mitt Romney was running against (President Barack Obama) and they both stated it was their favorite TV show. That doesn't happen very often."

■ Ariel Winter (Alex Dunphy) says what she gained from the show includes her relationship with Nolan Gould, who played her sibling Luke. Winter calls Gould "one of my best friends. He really is the little brother that I never had and that I love so much."

Souvenirs, anyone?

■ Julie Bowen (Claire Dunphy) spent a fair amount of off-camera time in a hallway that mostly served as a waiting area for scenes shot elsewhere in the Dunphy house. Cast photos decorated the walls, along with paintings of birds that Bowen requested as a keepsake. The artwork had "so much to do with that set, and being there and feeling at home," she said.

■ Winter says she may be the only cast member that didn't request any set decorations. "I know it sounds weird, but for me, nothing stuck out as something I needed" as a memento, she said. Having spent half her life on the series, from age 11 to 22, "it's ingrained in my mind ... I have the memories, and I'm good with that."

A fond farewell

■ The last episode includes familiar comic moments of "Phil being Phil, Cam being Cam, Sofia being Sofia" said Lloyd, who wrote the second half-hour. But it also includes a "sweet emotional hug in there, which is another thing that audiences have come to expect from the show, and I think it's a good balance."

■ Levitan, who wrote part one, says "Modern Family" has tried to bring "a little joy and happiness into people's lives. ... I would say that now more than ever, if people can tune in for an hour and forget about all the dark things going on in our world today, that would be wonderful."

"Modern Family" stars (from left) Relial Ewing, Ariel Winter, Ty Burrell, Julie Bowen, Eric Stonestreet, Nolan Gould, Aubrey Anderson-Emmons, Jesse Tyler Ferguson, Jeremy Maguire, Sarah Hyland, Sofia Vergara, Rico Rodriguez and Ed O'Neill.

ABC

BET plans starry television special

DJ Khaled, Charlie Wilson, Chance the Rapper, Kirk Franklin, Fantasia and Melvin Criswell III are slated to perform in a special BET show that will assist people of color in dealing with the coronavirus.

The "Saving Our Selves: A BET COVID-19 Relief Effort" broadcast special will air state-side April 22.

The special will be hosted by singer and actress Kelly Rowland, TV personality Terrence J and actress Regina Hall. The special will give up-to-date information and drive viewers to needed resources.

"Every day, there are new reports of how this pandemic is killing African Americans at much higher rates than other communities," said Scott Mills, BET president. "BET is using all of our resources — our capital, our media platforms, our relationships with the creative community, sponsors, businesses and charitable organizations to support our community in this time of crisis."

Reporter writes book on Melania Trump

A Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter for The Washington Post has written an unauthorized biography of first lady Melania Trump. Mary Jordan's "The Art of Her Deal," which draws upon more than 100 interviews, comes out June 16.

"The picture is one of a woman who is savvy, steely, ambitious, deliberate, and who plays the long game," according to an announcement Wednesday from Simon & Schuster. "With the help of key people who speak publicly for the first time and never-before-seen documents and tapes, 'The Art of Her Deal' paints a surprising portrait of a determined immigrant and the life she has had before she met Donald Trump."

Other news

■ "Tiger King," the Netflix documentary about a big-cat trainer who goes by the name of Joe Exotic, has become the runaway hit of the global pandemic, attracting 34.1 million U.S. viewers in the first 10 days after its release. The program debuted March 20, just as much of America was hunkering down under coronavirus stay-at-home orders.

■ Hal Willner, a music producer and longtime "Saturday Night Live" music supervisor, died Tuesday. He had symptoms consistent with those caused by the coronavirus, but he had not been diagnosed. He was 64.

■ Thomas L. Miller, who produced hit TV comedies such as "Full House" and "Perfect Strangers" before working as a Broadway producer, died Sunday of complications from heart disease. He was 79.

■ Allen Garfield, a veteran character actor in classic 1970s films like "The Conversation" and "Nashville," died Tuesday of complications from the coronavirus. He was 80.

From wire reports

STARS AND STRIPES

Max D. Lederer Jr., Publisher
Lt. Col. Sean Klinker, Europe commander
Lt. Col. Richard McClinton, Pacific commander
Caroline E. Miller, Europe Business Operations
Joshua M. Lashbrook, Pacific Chief of Staff

EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editor
leonard.terry@stripes.com
Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
reid.robert@stripes.com
Tina Croley, Managing Editor for Content
croley.tina@stripes.com
Sean Moores, Managing Editor for Presentation
moores.sean@stripes.com
Joe Gromelski, Managing Editor for Digital
gromelski.joe@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Erik Slavlin, Europe & Mideast Chief
slavlin.erik@stripes.com
+410610.3615.9350, DSN (314)83.9350

Pacific

Aaron Kidd, Pacific Bureau Chief
kidd.aaron@stripes.com
+81.42.552.2511 ext. 88380, DSN (315)227.7380

Washington

Joseph Caccioli, Washington Bureau Chief
caccioli.joseph@stripes.com
(+1)202.886-0033
Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
bowers.brian@stripes.com

CIRCULATION

Mideast
Robert Reismann, Mideast Circulation Manager
robert.w.reismann.na@gmail.com
xscirculation@stripes.com
DSN (314)83-9111

Europe

Karen Lewis, Community Engagement Manager
lewis.karen@stripes.com
The Star and Stripes team will not publish or
+49(0)631.3615.9090, DSN (314)83.9090

Pacific

Mari Mori, Customer Help@stripes.com
+81-3 6385.3171; DSN (315)227.7333

CONTACT US

Washington
tel: (+1)202.886.0003
633 3rd St. NW, Suite 116, Washington, DC 20001-3050

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contactus

OMBMDSMAN

Ernie Gates

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by email at ombudsman@stripes.com, or by phone at 202.886.0003.

Stars and Stripes (USPS 0471900) is published weekly, dates (except Dec. 25 and Jan. 1) for 50 cents Monday through Thursday and for \$1 on Friday by Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-0012. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, CA. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96301-0012.

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

© Stars and Stripes 2020

stripes.com

OPINION

Now is not the time to cast blame

By KATHLEEN PARKER
Washington Post Writers Group

Recently, I heard myself say something rarely thought, must less expressed, as I was talking to a friend on the phone: "You know, from now on, I think everything we say and do has to be prefaced by the question: Is it helpful?"

This is an echo of the physician's creed: "Above all, do no harm." But it isn't typically the first thought of most columnists, including this one. Oh, don't get me wrong, we want to save the world with small gestures of biting wit and well-slung sarcasm. But, generally speaking, writing a column isn't far afield from H.L. Mencken's observation that "Every normal man must be tempted, at times, to spit upon his hands, hoist the black flag, and begin slitting throats."

Pandemics necessarily change one's tune. The normal man or woman today just wants to survive. Me, too.

An honest answer to my question, of course, would be many a critic's career. But some criticism is valuable and necessary, if based in fact and lucid observation. Which brings me to a short detour to address an unintentional mistake I made in a recent column, citing Donald Trump's calling the new coronavirus a "hoax." I wasn't aware that this wasn't so until several readers wrote to inform me. With apologies to the president, Trump said that Democrats were using the pandemic as a hoax to take him down.

Let the record reflect: President Trump never said the pandemic was a hoax. He did suggest that the narrative about his mishandling of the pandemic was a hoax. I regret the error, but allow me to post an asterisk as well: Trump has told so many untruths, called so many challenges "hoax-

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

In November, all in US might be in Wis. voters' position

The San Jose, Calif. (San Jose News)

We must not only save our nation's residents from the pandemic, we must also save our democracy from it.

The Wisconsin primary debacle on Tuesday highlights just how far the Republican Party is willing to go to disenfranchise voters in the middle of a public health emergency and that the highly partisan U.S. Supreme Court majority is willing to enable the despotic behavior.

Let this serve as a warning of the danger ahead in the November election. It's highly likely that the threat of the coronavirus will not be over by then. Yet, 16 states are in the middle of a public health emergency and that the highly partisan U.S. Supreme Court majority is willing to enable the despotic behavior.

Then there are states like Wisconsin, where Republican lawmakers blocked efforts to delay the primary voting while the nation's high court is holding out reasonable deadline accommodations for those voting from home who had not received their ballots in time.

As we said before, everyone eligible to cast a ballot should be able to do so by mail, especially in the middle of a pandemic. It's not a new idea. It's not a new thing. It will be a thing of the past by November, we shouldn't count on it.

Moreover, we should be prepared for any emergency that might make turning out at the polls difficult or impossible. As Wisconsin demonstrates, we're not.

Republicans' GOP strategy has been to suppress voter turnout. Now President Donald Trump is talking openly about it as he continues his exaggerated claims about voter fraud. Last week, he complained about Democratic vote-by-mail proposals in Congress. "They had levels of voting that, if you ever agreed to it, you'd never want a Republican elected in this country again," he said.

It's so cynical. The Republican political strategy seems to hinge on depressing turnout. The party carried that to an extreme in Wisconsin by insisted on holding the primary election despite a statewide order to stay at home to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Wisconsin was the only one of 12 states that conducted in-person primary voting in April. The state GOP there is battling to elect a conservative state Supreme Court justice to a 10-year term.

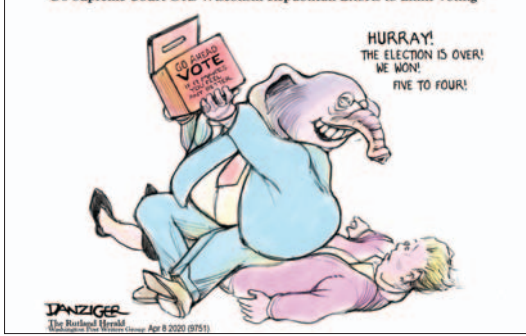
Republicans control the Legislature, balked at postponing the election, as Democratic Gov. Tony Evers had sought. The result was the chaos the nation witnessed Tuesday that included long lines and limited polling locations for voting. There were only five Milwaukee locations to vote.

The confusion was compounded by delays in fulfilling unprecedented numbers of requests for absentee ballots, resulting in tens of thousands of voters not receiving them in time. Consequently, a federal judge ordered the deadline for returning ballots to be extended to the election day. The state's Supreme Court ruled 4-2 that the deadline should be extended.

By a 5-4 vote, with the high court split along ideological lines, the majority ruled that the postmark deadline for returning the ballots would remain Tuesday.

The Court's order, I fear, will result in massive disenfranchisement," wrote Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg for the minority.

US Supreme Court OKs Wisconsin Republican Efforts to Limit Voting



"A voter cannot deliver for postmarking a ballot she has not received. Yet tens of thousands of voters who timely requested ballots are unlikely to receive them by April 7, the Court's postmark deadline."

It's a foreshadowing of the chaos that will be in November if voters across the nation don't insist on a fair system.

Democracy prevailed as Dems' effort to delay primary failed

The Wall Street Journal

Wisconsin held its election Tuesday on schedule despite coronavirus, and Democrats are blaming the Supreme Court for endangering public health. That's not what happened. On Monday night the justices rightly reversed a district judge's last-minute order that would have allowed Wisconsin ballots to be cast after the election was legally over. The confusing episode is a reminder that, even in a pandemic, steps as grave as rewriting voting rules should be up to elected representatives and not free-lanced by judges.

Wisconsin planned to mitigate the coronavirus threat with a large increase in vote-by-mail so fewer people would need to leave their homes. The Democratic National Committee used to force the delay of the election outright.

Last Thursday a federal judge denied that extreme request but said vote-by-mail needed to be extended. Instead of receiving ballots by April 7, he said, clerks needed to count any ballots received by next Monday, April 13. After apparently realizing that this could distort the electoral process by allowing Tuesday's reported results to influence votes, the judge issued another order banning the state election board from reporting any results before April 13.

The Republican National Committee asked the U.S. Supreme Court to intervene, and five justices agreed that the district judge was outside his authority. His remedy would "fundamentally alter the nature of the election by allowing voting for six additional days after the election," they wrote in an unsigned opinion.

The Supreme Court decision came an hour after the Wisconsin Supreme Court swatted aside Gov. Tony Evers' effort to unilaterally postpone the election. Through March, Evers, a Democrat, had indicated the election should proceed and issued an executive order exempting polling places from his mass-gathering ban.

Yet liberal pressure built in recent days and on Monday Evers tried using his emergency powers to call the election off. Through March, Evers, a Democrat, had indicated the election should proceed and issued an executive order exempting polling places from his mass-gathering ban.

More than a dozen states have postponed

their spring primary elections because of the virus. Yet Wisconsin's election is more consequential than the all-but-finished Biden-Sanders primary that is the main item on the ballot in many states. [Bernie Sanders launched his campaign Wednesday.] A state Supreme Court seat and criminal-justice referendum are both contested. Postponing it by months could require altering the duration of elected officials' terms.

Republicans in the Legislature didn't show interest in postponing the election, but neither did Evers until recently. If voters are disappointed, they can hold legislators accountable in November or boot Evers in 2022.

This virus will be here for some time, and people in different states need to deal with it through the democratic process. Americans have already temporarily lost some of our freedom and we shouldn't also toss out the rule of law.

Americans' privacy imperiled during coronavirus pandemic

The New York Times

Millions of Americans, sheltering in their homes from the coronavirus, have turned to communications platforms like Zoom, Google Hangouts and Facebook Messenger in order to work or stay connected to friends and family. Free and easy to use, the services are gobbling up record numbers of new users.

But there's a free, you are the product. This is not business as usual, though.

Americans aren't willingly surrendering their online identities during this pandemic. Many are being compelled to do so by their schools, family or work. Just as a swath of manufacturers are switching their production lines to ventilator and mask production for the greater good, corporations that normally view every new registered user as a data point to exploit need to take a pause on profiting from online data harvesting.

For those fortunate enough to have laptops and reliable broadband internet at home, it is not sufficient to simply update privacy policies or customer agreements. Americans need a guarantee that conversational and video chat won't be data collection events.

The videoconferencing company Zoom has been a standout brand of the pandemic, in part because its daily user numbers ballooned to 200 million in March from 10 million last year, making it one of the few tech stocks to rise in the recent sell-off.

New York State's attorney general started an investigation into Zoom, calling on it to proactively beef up security measures, rather than just in response to negative press reports about lapses in privacy protection. And the FBI warned that Zoom was susceptible to a form of digital hijacking known as "Zoombombing" following

incidents where hackers joined online meetings to harass participants with racist or graphic taunts, making the specter that personal user data might be vulnerable, too.

Zoom's chief executive, Eric Yuan, apologized for the lax security practices, including the transfer of customer data in a mess to Facebook privacy by Microsoft. The company said it was halting new feature releases for three months to focus on security.

Skittish about risks to the privacy of their students, a number of school districts, including those in New York City, Pittsburgh and Clark County, Nev., home of Las Vegas, won't allow classes to be conducted over Zoom, further interrupting the already bumpy launch of virtual learning. Officials said they were concerned that default settings allow for heightened data gathering and that parents may not have the tech savvy to disable such features.

Jeff Ericson, a father of two students in Pittsburgh, said he'd grudgingly agree to whatever terms Microsoft set for use of its video software in the district. "Like anybody, I care about my kids' privacy, but I also don't want them missing out on the educational services that they know will help them to do better," he said.

Harried parents seeking a remedy for their kids' isolation could be forgiven for not poring over book-length privacy policies before connecting them with grandparents on video chat or entertaining them with a few hours of streaming YouTube videos.

Elizabeth Johnson, a lawyer in North Carolina who specializes in data privacy, is at a loss for a solution when her two children, ages 10 and 12, want to use videoconferencing services that she knows will harvest their data. "I have no idea what to do about it," said Johnson. "Staying in school now is more important than an amorphous future where companies have made inferences about my children as online consumers."

Time and again, corporations have shown that, for them, the value of huge data stores that can inform advertisers or their own product development trumps any potential embarrassment over how it was compiled.

Not content with having millions of Americans forced onto their platforms for work or pleasure, the tech industry is also using the pandemic as an excuse to seek the rollback of the modest privacy protections that exist.

In January, millions of Americans got the opportunity for the first time to request a detailed readout of the personal dossiers that multinational companies collect and to compel those businesses to no longer sell their data, thanks to the landmark California Consumer Privacy Act.

The results were eye-popping. The law has spurred the extent of corporations' data collection, including logs of every tap on a Kindle e-reader, detailed credit card data, email addresses, complete lists of past purchases and inferences about customer preferences, like which movies they are most likely to watch.

But the pandemic has thrown down on the United States, a coalition of trade groups petitioned California's attorney general, Xavier Becerra, to delay enforcement of the privacy law until next year. If a delay is granted, corporations will be relieved from requirements that include disclosing personal information they collect about Californians. (The attorney general's office has taken no action.)

Instead of trying to worm out of privacy regulations, companies providing critical connectivity services should apply that emergency powers to data collection during the national emergency to help them continue to operate and to give additional reassurances that their services comply with child protection laws.

Americans have lost control over a lot as a result of the coronavirus. At least they should have some control what happens to their personal data.

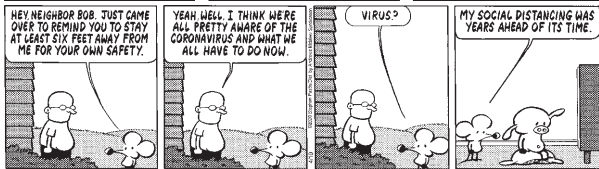
Frazz



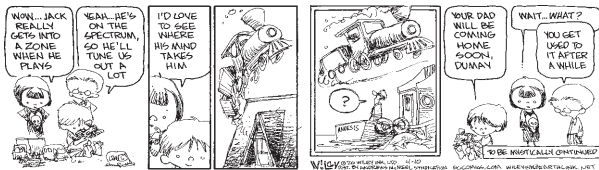
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



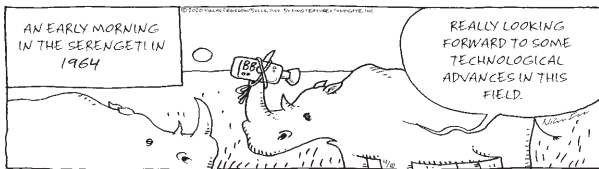
Non Sequitur



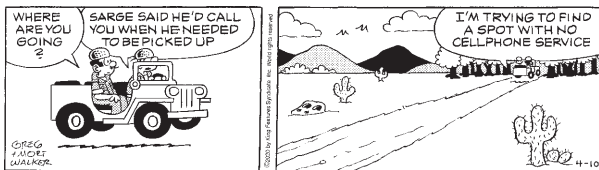
Candorville



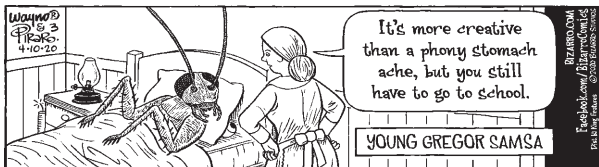
Carpe Diem



Beetle Bailey



Bizarro



Eugene Sheffer Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12						13			14	
15						16			17	
		18				19			20	
21	22			23				24		
25			26			27		28		
29			30			31			32	33
		35				36			37	
38	39	40				41		42		43
44					45			46		
47				48				49		50
52				53				54		51
55				56				57		

ACROSS

- Mexican snacks
- Nap site
- Cover
- Bit of grass
- Exist
- Big bird of Australia
- Earth Day month
- Capital of Costa Rica
- River formations
- Scott Turwot book
- Half of bi-
- Part of RSVP
- "SNL" segments
- Umps
- Arche pioneer
- "That's cheating!"
- Counted (on)
- Sketches
- Lady — ("Paparazzi" singer)

- Touches down
- Lingus
- Off-tattooed word
- Author Wiesel
- Meryl of film
- Capital of Lithuania
- Separated
- First lady?
- Hit show letters
- Look (into)
- French article

- Signing need
- You'll get a rise out of it

DOWN

- TV schedule abbr.
- Swiss peak
- Capital of Uganda
- Garfield's pal
- Vends
- Volcanic rock
- Historic times
- Lair
- "Spanglish" star Téa
- "No more for me, thanks"
- Swiss fights
- Pulling one's leg
- Royal crown
- Samovar

- Opposite of paleo-
- Madrid Mrs.
- Make melancholy
- Daisy Mae's guy
- 30 1040 org.
- Capital of
- 33ld counterpart
- River blocker
- Actress Emma of "Little Women"
- Flatten
- Kicking partner
- Frasier's brother
- Prepared
- "Absolutely!"
- Fencing sword
- AOL, for one
- Motor homes
- Asian holiday

Answer to Previous Puzzle

B	E	T	A	C	D	S	A	M	P	S
A	R	O	D	A	N	T	L	U	A	N
L	I	E	V	R	A	E	A	C	N	E
I	N	D	I	A	N	M	A	S	H	E
		S	H	E	S	K	A			
M	A	C	E	G	A	Z	P	A	C	H
I	S	H	I	R	E	H	A	H		
C	H	O	W	D	E	R	S	S	O	L
		C	R	O	T	I	P			
S	T	O	I	C	S	I	D	I	O	T
U	R	L	S		H	O	E		R	O
N	E	A	T		U	S	S		E	P
S	E	T	S		N	E	T		S	S

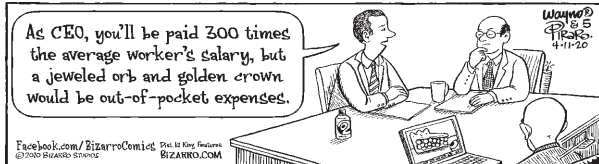
4-10

CRYPTOQUIP

FZGE RMXZE BURSJUKO PGWW
ME FZSQ G VMQK UL
JYSGVLGBE PSYSGW MB
QUEZMQX BDSPMGW ?
XYGQUWG DGY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SPECIAL FAVOR THAT PEOPLE ARE SHOWN IF THEY HAVE BECOME VERY MUSCULAR: BRAUNY POINTS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals K



CRYPTOQUIP



Stripes

SERVICE DIRECTORY

The Daily Guide to Navigating the European Business Market

Transportation

944

Transportation

944

VEHICLE SHIPPING SERVICES

- International Shipping
- Import & Export
- Inland trucking (U.S. & Europe)
- Door to door pick-up/delivery service
- Customs clearance
- All Risk Marine Insurance
- Auto Insurance (Germany only)

For Further Information Please Contact

GERMANY	UNITED KINGDOM	U.S.A.
Phone: +49-(0)6134-2592730	+44-(0)1638-515714	+1-972-602-1670 Ext. 1701
Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)	enquiries@carshipuk.co.uk	+1-800-264-8167 (US only)
E-Mail: info@transglobal-logistics.de	www.carshipuk.co.uk	info@tgal.us
WEB: www.transglobal-logistics.de	www.tgal.us	

For 2nd POV Shipments - Offices / Agencies near Military Installations



Vehicle Transport

We can help



We move your world

Contact: Mr. Heiko Iwachmann
hiwachmann@fwn.de

+49 (0) 421 48 94 225

www.interglobalshipping.de

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill. Also available on mobile apps for Android smartphones and as an iOS app for both iPhone and iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES.
Mobile • Online • Print

STARS AND STRIPES Relocation Guide

To advertise in the next Relocation Guide, reach out to Doug Dougherty at dougherty.doug@stripes.com

RELOCATING TO FORT HOOD

LONGHORN PROPERTIES

www.LONGHORNPONIES.sale

READY TO BUY? LET US BE YOUR GUIDE!



Nicky Tharpe
Sales Manager/Loan Officer
NMLS# 466819
254-312-2020
nicky@fairwaymc.com

- FREE Prequalification
- SALES
- RENTALS
- PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

EXPECT THE BEST!



Lennex Alfred
Broker/Owner
ABR, TRP, TRLS
254-508-0382
Lennex.alfred@longhornproperties.net



Do you need help renting or managing your home in Jacksonville FL? If so we can help. Our broker has over 15 years of property management experience. We are located in Jacksonville FL 32225.

We can help you buy and sell homes too!
Military discount for property management and Tenant placement.

Experienced Property Management of fax, LLC

Matt MacDonald
Lic, Florida Real Estate Broker

PHONE: 1-904-257-3303
EMAIL: mattexppm@gmail.com

Sell Your Stuff!



Take the fuss out of packing up for your next PCS—sell everything with Stripes *free classifieds!*

STARS AND STRIPES.

Round-the-world news for America's military.

Stripes.com supplies constant updates, on news of interest — including reports from our overseas military bases in Europe, Pacific, Southwest Asia and the Mideast, and coverage of the Pentagon and Capitol Hill. Also available on mobile apps for Android smartphones and as an iOS app for both iPhone and iPad.

STARS AND STRIPES.
Mobile • Online • Print

STARS AND STRIPES®

Unlimited Digital Access

INTRO OFFER!

FOUR WEEKS Web + Mobile

ONE MONTH
FREE TRIAL

When you subscribe to Stripes Digital Access...

Get exclusive access to innovative digital features, interactive articles, award-winning photography and more. Enjoy unlimited access to the Stripes.com website and our Stars and Stripes mobile apps, all for a low monthly or annual subscription.



Stars and Stripes content features

- Access to Stars and Stripes mobile apps
- Exclusive reports on military matters
- Coverage of all military branches
- Special features on current issues
- Veterans topics
- Retrospectives such as Vietnam at 50
- Archive Photo of the Day
- Unbiased, First Amendment protected reporting from U.S. military bases around the world.

Subscribe Today!



stripes.com/subscribe

Mobile



Mobile apps with constantly updating news, featuring breaking news and stories from reporters at overseas bases. Unique galleries of images available nowhere else presented in an uncluttered interface and a responsive, intuitive design. One iOS app serves both phone and tablet devices.

In print, we serve military stationed overseas in contingency areas, Europe and Pacific. Daily editions focus on military news and include sports, comics and opinion. Available by mail delivery to any U.S. address.



Newspaper

Web



Discover unique stories from reporters at bases around the world and embedded with downrange forces at Stripes.com, along with military news from every part of the country and photo galleries you'll see nowhere else. DoDDs sports also gets good coverage online. If it concerns our U.S. forces, you'll find it on our website.



STARS  STRIPES®

UNBIASED NEWS WHATEVER WAY YOU WANT IT.

Welcome to the Neighborhood.



You rely on your
military community
when you're far from
home.

We get that.

USE OUR COMMUNITY SITES TO CONNECT AND SHARE DURING
YOUR TIME OVERSEAS.

WITH BASE INFORMATION, TRAVEL TIPS, RESTAURANT REVIEWS
AND EVEN THE SCORE OF YOUR CHILD'S HIGH SCHOOL
BASKETBALL GAME, WE'VE GOT YOU COVERED.

VISIT ONE OF OUR
COMMUNITY SITES TODAY!

STARS AND STRIPES. **KOREA**

STARS AND STRIPES. **GUAM**

STARS AND STRIPES. **OKINAWA**

STARS AND STRIPES. **JAPAN**

STARS AND STRIPES. **EUROPE**

Stay connected and hey, welcome to the neighborhood.

Get the news
that matters to you,
from the source you trust.



Daily Headlines | Veterans News | Military History | and more

Sign up now for Stars and Stripes FREE eNewsletters

STARS AND STRIPES® stripes.com/newsletters



MILITARY MATTERS



A STARS AND STRIPES PODCAST



Every controversial topic
has two sides.
We look into the ones
that matter to you.

New episodes available now

LISTEN NOW



Available on

at **Stripes.com/podcasts**

Sponsored by



SCOREBOARD/VIRUS OUTBREAK/SOCCER

Sports on AFN

Go to the American Forces Network website for the most up-to-date TV schedules. myafn.net

Deals

Wednesday's transactions

FOOTBALL
National Football League
CINCINNATI BENGALS — Agreed to terms with CB Mackensie Alexander, LB Josh Barnes, CB Lechean Sims and WR Mike Thomas on one-year contracts. Agreed to terms with S Vonn Bell, G Xavier Su'a-Filo and CB Trae Waynes on three-year contracts. Agreed to terms with DT D.J. Reader on a four-year contract. Re-signed G Alex Redmond to a one-year contract.

NEW YORK GIANTS — Signed K Aldrick Rosas to a restricted free agent contract.

SEATTLE SEAHAWKS — Re-signed G Jordan Simmons.

TENNESSEE TITANS — Agreed to terms with DL Jack Crawford to a one-year deal.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS — Announced Brandon Scherff has signed a franchise tender.

COLLEGE
NCAA — Announced DePaul men's basketball G Jalen Coleman-Lands was given a year of eligibility.
OKLAHOMA CITY — Named Brett Tiahah women's basketball head coach.

Pro hockey

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
Atlantic Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	PP	PK
Boston	43	20	17	5	86	224	138	48	79
Tampa Bay	43	21	6	4	92	245	195	50	78
Toronto	40	36	25	9	91	238	227	11	76
Florida	69	35	26	8	78	231	228	3	78
Montreal	71	31	31	9	71	212	221	1	71
Buffalo	69	30	31	8	68	195	217	1	71
Ottawa	71	25	34	12	62	191	243	1	71
Detroit	69	17	41	13	39	145	267	1	71

Metropolitan Division									
Washington	69	41	20	8	90	240	215	25	78
Philadelphia	69	41	21	7	89	232	196	136	78
Pittsburgh	69	40	23	6	86	224	196	128	78
Norfolk	68	38	25	5	82	225	197	128	78
Columbus	70	33	22	15	81	180	187	187	78
N.Y. Islanders	68	35	23	10	90	192	193	193	78
N.Y. Rangers	70	37	28	5	79	234	222	12	78
New Jersey	69	28	29	12	68	189	230	141	78

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
Central Division									
GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	PP	PK
St. Louis	71	42	10	10	94	225	193	32	78
Colorado	70	42	20	8	92	228	217	11	78
Dallas	71	37	24	8	82	180	177	3	78
Winnipeg	71	37	28	6	80	216	203	13	78
Nashville	69	35	26	8	78	215	217	2	78
Minnesota	69	35	27	7	77	220	220	0	78
Chicago	71	32	38	8	72	212	218	6	78

Pacific Division									
Vegas	71	39	24	8	86	227	211	16	78
Edmonton	71	37	25	9	83	225	227	2	78
Calgary	70	36	27	7	79	210	215	5	78
Vancouver	69	36	27	6	78	228	217	11	78
Arizona	70	33	29	8	74	195	187	8	78
Anaheim	71	29	33	9	67	187	226	139	78
Los Angeles	70	35	35	6	64	178	212	34	78
San Jose	70	29	36	5	63	182	226	144	78

All games postponed at least until early May.

Pro soccer

MLS

EASTERN CONFERENCE									
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	PP	PK	OT
Atlanta	2	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
New York	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
Orlando City	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
Toronto FC	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
D.C. United	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
Chicago	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
New England	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
Orlando City	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
Philadelphia	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
Cincinnati	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
Inter Miami CF	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
New York FC	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0

WESTERN CONFERENCE									
W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA	Diff	PP	PK	OT
Sporting KC	2	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
Minnesota United	2	0	0	6	8	3	5	0	0
San Jose	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
FC Dallas	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
Los Angeles FC	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
Portland	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
Seattle Sounders	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
Real Salt Lake	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
LA Galaxy	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
San Jose	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
Houston	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0
LA Galaxy	1	0	1	4	4	3	1	0	0

All games postponed at least until early May.

Olympians train stranded

By JAMES ELLINGWORTH
Associated Press

DUSSELDORF, Germany — Moving from the track to the living room, many athletes around the world are doing their bit to boost public health during the coronavirus pandemic.

There's been an explosion of athletes offering free online fitness classes and tips to an audience isolated at home.

It helps others keep fit, and especially for sports like track and field, it's a way to stay relevant in a year without the Olympics.

"The onus is all now on the parents and for kids you're stuck in whatever space you've got at home," former marathon world record holder Paula Radcliffe, who is preparing an upcoming online class for World Athletics, told The Associated Press.

"So it was just trying to make that a fun way to get everybody active together and try to restore a little bit of normality."

Radcliffe previously organized family running events to keep people active. Now that more people are at home, she's taking the initiative online.

World Athletics, the governing body of track and field, has been left with an empty schedule as meets around the world have been canceled. It is filling the gap with a range of online exercise tips and educational resources, particularly aimed at children.

Besides Radcliffe, other Olympic athletes involved include two-time 100-meter champion Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce of Jamaica, who stores a little bit of normality.



THEMBA HADEBE/AP

English cricket player Jos Buttler has been demonstrating pilates exercises on Instagram with his wife Louise.

hurdles champion Sally Pearson of Australia, leading a prenatal workout class.

The trend spans sports and countries.

England cricket player Jos Buttler has been demonstrating pilates exercises on Instagram with his wife Louise, a professional trainer. Sometimes he's even done it in full gear, with helmet, pads and bat.

In Germany, world long jump champion Malaika Mihambo led an after-school sports

club for young children. Now she's taken it online, with daily German-language YouTube workouts packed with motivational chat for the kids she calls her "world champions."

"Even when parents try hard to keep the general uncertainty away from them, children have finely tuned antennas and sense something like that anyway," Mihambo said on the German track federation website. "If I can make my little contribution to putting a bit of structure in their everyday lives in this time, to make them enthusiastic about sport, then I'm happy to do that."

Spanish soccer coaches and French athletes have joined in, too, while the Slovakian soccer federation published a video showing Jan Gregus, a midfielder with Minnesota United in Major League Soccer, doing a playful routine. Copying his high-energy mix of abdominal exercises and ball tricks will challenge anyone stuck at home.

Radcliffe said athletes can adapt during the pandemic, and help others, thanks to the "resilience" many have built up when their training options are limited by injuries.

"It's the same mentality as if you're injured. You focus on doing what you can do to maintain, so that when you can come out and compete, you compete well and build on that base," she said. "The world's a bit injured right now and we're all just trying to focus a bit on what we can do to help everybody else get through it."

AP sports writers Karel Janicek in Prague and Steve Douglas in Sundsvall, Sweden, contributed to this report.

Inaugural MLS game was filled with promise

By ANNE M. PETERSON
Associated Press

Before the inaugural Major League Soccer match, a group of San Jose Clash players went to a local restaurant for some pregame bonding. Four of them threw up after the meal, but it had nothing to do with the food, recalled Eric Wynalda.

"It was just the nervousness," he said. "These were guys that had never played in a professional game. We were just starting to feel the magnitude of what was about to happen, that we were going to be playing a game that the world was going to be watching."

Wynalda scored the first — and only — goal back on April 6, 1996, when the Clash hosted D.C. United in the inaugural Major League Soccer match. The nationally televised event attracted a sellout crowd of 31,683 to Spartan Stadium. Monday marks the game's 24th anniversary, a bitersweet moment amid the coronavirus pandemic that has put the league's 25th season on hold indefinitely.

Then-United coach Bruce Arena said the game was important for what it represented. "I recall that while build-up, how proud we were when 'The Star-Spangled Banner' was played and they introduced teams. It was something we all waited for, for many years, to have a professional league back in the country," he said.

Actor Andrew Shue, who starred on the TV series "Melrose



CRANE FURN/AP

D.C. United forward Raul Diaz Arce, of El Salvador, moves the ball downfield against San Jose Clash defenders Michael Ezenalo, left, from Nigeria, and Victor Mella, partially obscured, from Chile, during the inaugural MLS game at San Jose, Calif., on April 6, 1996.

Place," performed the coin toss. Shue was actually a good player and appeared in five games for the LA Galaxy in the league's inaugural year.

Wynalda's goal in the 87th minute gave the Clash the victory on the warm evening. "I'm just so glad that I scored and we finished that game 1-0 and it didn't give all the haters an opportunity to say, 'Oh look, soccer's boring, 0-0,'" Wynalda said. "It was a wonderful moment and it really was the kick-start."

From The Associated Press story at the time: "Wynalda,

who earlier had failed to convert two good scoring chances, dribbled through two defenders and slammed a shot with his right foot past Washington's goalkeeper, Jeff Causey, and into the corner of the net."

It went on: "Most of the sloppy game was played at midfield and there were few good scoring chances, giving ammunition to critics who charge soccer does not have enough offense to succeed in the United States."

Wynalda played in three World Cups and scored 34 goals in 106 appearances with the U.S. team

over a 10-year span. A National Soccer Hall of Famer, Wynalda now coaches the Las Vegas Lights of the USL Championship league.

Jeff Agoos, now a senior vice president of competition for MLS, was a defender for D.C. United in the inaugural game. Agoos went on to a 10-year playing career in the league.

"I give Eric an incredible amount of credit for what he was able to accomplish in the end. I do remember at the end of the game, in the shower and coming out of our locker room, feeling obviously disappointed in the result," Agoos said. "But I felt like the worst outcome we could have had was a 0-0 game, and that everybody had complained about soccer as boring. What Eric did, and what the team did, what the Clash was able to pull off — the fans, they wanted to come back. They wanted to see another game. And we really created a lot of momentum."

Arena, himself a Hall of Famer and former national team coach, went on to coach teams to five MLS Cup titles. Now the coach of the New England Revolution, he said he's looking forward to the league's next quarter century.

"I was at a ceremony with (MLS Commissioner) Don Garber and I told him for the 50th anniversary, you know, we're going to have a bottle of Champagne and celebrate where the league's going to be at," he said. "Who would ever think MLS would be 25 years old? And I know it's going to make it to the 50th anniversary as well."

NBA



CURTIS COMPTON, ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION/AP

LOS ANGELES LAKERS SMALL FORWARD LE BRON JAMES, LEFT, HAS A HOME GYM AND ACCESS TO A COURT TO HELP HIM KEEP IN SHAPE, BUT ATLANTA HAWKS HEAD COACH LLOYD PIERCE, RIGHT, SAID OTHER PLAYERS VARY WIDELY IN THEIR ACCESS TO A COURT AND WORKOUT EQUIPMENT DURING THE NBA'S CORONAVIRUS HIATUS.

NBA players' access to workouts varies widely

By STEVE MEGAREE

Associated Press

MILWAUKEE — Giannis Antetokounmpo is spending much of his time during the coronavirus-imposed hiatus working out, helping care for his newborn son and playing occasional video games.

What the reigning MVP isn't doing very often is shooting baskets since the NBA has closed team practice facilities.

"I don't have access to a hoop," the Milwaukee Bucks forward said last week during a conference call. "A lot of NBA players might have a court in their house or something, I don't know, but now I just get my home workouts, (go) on the bike, treadmill, lift weights, stay sharp that way."

The hiatus is forcing thousands of athletes, pro and otherwise, to work out from home as they try to keep in shape. Equipment varies from player to player, too.

"It all comes down to what they have and what they're capable of doing," Atlanta Hawks coach Lloyd Pierce said. "We can do a lot of body weight stuff. That's how they stay ready. That's the most I can offer as a coach for them to stay ready. I can't say 'Hey, can you find access to a gym?' That would be bad management on my part."

For instance, Pierce said Hawks guard Kevin Huerter has access to a gym in New York and guard Jeff Teague owns a gym in Indiana.

Other players face different situations.

"I've seen LeBron's Instagram," Pierce said of Los Angeles Lakers superstar LeBron James. "LeBron has a house with a full weight room and he has an outdoor court. He's got a different reality right now that gives him a little more access to continue the normal. (Hawks rookie) Cam Reddish lives in an apartment and it's probably a two-bedroom apartment. He can't go in the apartment weight room because it's a public facility. So he's limited in all things."

Bucks coach Mike Budenholzer said he wanted his players to focus on keeping their bodies in shape and conceded that logistics would make it tougher for them to do any basketball-specific activities.

Bucks players said team officials have made sure they all have the necessary exercise equipment. Antetokounmpo noted the Bucks also had a catering company bring food to make sure they maintain a proper diet. Center Brook Lopez said workout plans have been sent to them via a phone app.



JOHN KUNTZ, CLEVELAND.COM/AP

Milwaukee Bucks forward Khris Middleton, front, said his only access to a basketball goal is shooting at a neighbor's outdoor hoop.

"They've done a really good job of getting everything taken care of and still having tailored workouts for each individual player despite the situation," Lopez said.

But it's difficult for them to work on their shooting without access to a court.

"Since the practice facility is closed down, I don't have any access to a basketball goal unless I go to one of my neighbors' houses and shoot outside," Bucks forward Khris Middleton said. "There's really no basketball for me. It's basically like Giannis said. Treadmill, jump rope, some weights and that's it. I have a couple of basketballs I can dribble in my house or outside, but no actual goal to shoot on."

Pierce said Huerter recently asked him if he would be able to get into the Hawks' practice facility.

"I told him, 'I'll tell you when we won't,'" Pierce said. "We won't in April."

AP Sports Writer Charles Odom in Atlanta contributed to this report.

Waiting game: LeBron wants to finish season

By GREG BEACHAM

Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Instead of preparing for a playoff run, LeBron James is mostly spending the spring playing hoops with his teenage sons and enjoying tea time with his young daughter.

And when he isn't binge-watching "Tiger King" with his wife, he is scanning the news for information on whether the coronavirus pandemic will allow the Los Angeles Lakers to finish their impressive season chasing an NBA championship.

James is still optimistic about the Lakers' future, but he also knows safety comes first.

"I don't think I'll be able to have any closure if we do not have an opportunity to finish this season," James said from his home Wednesday.

The Lakers were cruising toward their first playoff berth since 2013 when the NBA season was suspended March 11. They have the Western Conference's best record at 49-14, leading the second-place Clippers (44-20) by 5½ games and trailing only Milwaukee (53-12) in the overall league standings.

The Lakers did it following a thorough roster turnover last summer headlined by the arrival of Anthony Davis. They also persevered through a stressful pre-season trip to China, followed by the death of franchise icon Kobe Bryant in a helicopter crash in January.

"I can have some satisfaction on what our team has been able to do this year (with) a first-year coach, first-year system, a whole new coaching staff, bringing on so many new pieces to our team this year," James said. "I honestly didn't think that we would be able to come together as fast as we did, just having so many new pieces (and) bringing in Anthony. He spent seven years in New Orleans, so he was coming into a new system, playing along with myself and how we would be able to come together? I thought it would take us a lot longer than it did, but I was wrong. I was very wrong about that."

And then all that good work abruptly stopped four weeks ago. Two unidentified Lakers players subsequently tested positive for coronavirus, but the Lakers say James and his teammates are all healthy after they completed their 14-day isolation.

James will be deeply disappointed if the Lakers don't get a chance to test themselves during a playoff run, yet he realizes what's most important.

James initially expressed re-

Scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	46	18	.719	—
Boston	43	21	.672	3
Philadelphia	39	26	.600	7½
Brooklyn	34	34	.500	16
New York	21	45	.318	26

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	34	30	.531	—
Orlando	30	35	.462	11
Washington	24	40	.375	16½
Charlotte	23	42	.354	18
Atlanta	20	47	.299	22

Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	53	12	.815	—
Indiana	39	26	.600	14
Chicago	22	43	.338	31
Detroit	20	46	.303	33½
Cleveland	19	46	.292	34

Western Conference

Southwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	40	24	.625	—
Dallas	40	27	.597	1½
Memphis	32	33	.492	8½
New Orleans	26	36	.419	12
San Antonio	27	36	.429	12½

Northwest Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	43	22	.662	—
Utah	41	23	.641	1½
Oklahoma City	40	24	.625	2½
Portland	29	37	.439	14½
Minnesota	19	42	.287	23½

Pacific Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	44	14	.778	—
L.A. Clippers	44	20	.688	5½
Sacramento	28	36	.438	21½
Phoenix	26	39	.400	24
Golden State	15	50	.231	35

L.A. Lakers and Golden State games postponed at least until mid-May.

luctance about playing in empty arenas, or the possibility of NBA teams gathering in the same city to complete the season in a form of quarantine. The 16-time All-Star selection now says he is up for anything that's safe and smart.

"If it's in one single, isolated destination, if it's Las Vegas or somewhere else that can hold us and keep us in the best possible chance to be safe, not only on the floor but also off the floor as well, then those conversations will be had," James said. "Once this thing gets a good handle on it and the people in the higher ranks understand it, if they know we are safe, then we can make the next step."

James is doing weekly meditation, but says his mental state is outstanding, thanks to his family. He has frequently spoken about missing time with loved ones during the grind of the NBA season, so he is enjoying this intensive togetherness with his kids.

"They wake up every day in a positive mind frame," James said. "Maybe one reason is they're not actually in school, so I know they get to sleep in a lot more now. But also they're just so appreciative of life... Just being able to see my kids wake up with that positive attitude helps. For me, I wake up, I'm able to get a nice breakfast, and then I train. And when I'm training, I'm always in a very positive state of mind."

VIRUS OUTBREAK

Leagues weigh restart options

Path forward yet to be determined

Associated Press

While the world wrestles with the coronavirus pandemic, the three biggest U.S.-based sports leagues currently affected by the crisis are trying to figure out if, how and where games can be safely played again this year.

The NBA, NHL and Major League Baseball have some similar constraints: Public and player health are the most pressing issues and any decisions would have to come with widespread federal, state and local support. But there are also individual challenges for each league, which have unique schedules and playing arrangements that could affect logistics.

All three have discussed the possibility of essentially quarantining their players in cities for long periods to play games in a safe environment.

Dr. Patrick Mularoni, who is the medical director of sports medicine at Johns Hopkins All Children's Hospital, says it's possible, at least on paper.

"You'd have to completely isolate the players, staff, coaches, medical staff and likely food-service workers until 14 days. They'd all have to be willing to do that," Mularoni said. "And the logistics of having that number of people not make a mistake is the difficult there. But once you do that, if they are all together and working together, once they're together, you should be fine because essentially what you created is an oasis where people who have proven



that they do not have COVID can be."

A Q&A prepared by some of AP's beat writers on where leagues are with their plans:

NBA

Q: If safe, how would play resume and when?

A: The NBA is looking at countless restart options, but a consistent theme throughout them calls for a training camp of at least two weeks for teams to get back into some sort of basketball shape. It would seem likely that teams would be quarantined at that time. No decision has been made about whether to resume some of the regular season or go right into the playoffs, and NBA Commissioner Adam Silver has said his league won't decide anything definitively until at least May.

Q: Where would games be held?



TNS photos

Above: A pedestrian wears a face mask on Sunset Boulevard in the Echo Park neighborhood of Los Angeles on April 2. Major League Baseball's opening day was to have been March 26 but was pushed back to mid-May at the earliest because of the virus outbreak. **Left:** NBA commissioner Adam Silver.

A: The idea of having one or two sites for games has been discussed, with Las Vegas and Los Angeles among them. The league has explored several possible sites, for preparation purposes, but has not entered into any concrete deals anyway.

Q: Would fans be allowed?

A: Almost certainly not, at least not at first, unless social distancing guidelines are lifted and public health officials say it is safe.

Q: Could they shorten the playoffs?

A: Absolutely. The best-of-seven format could be abandoned for a best-of-five or possibly less, though the NBA seems adamant at this point that—if the season is going to resume—it wants as legitimate a champion as possible.

Q: What other precautions would the NBA take?

A: The ball itself could be a major issue. NBA players sweat, and sweat a lot. That sweat gets

on the floor, gets on other players, but the one thing in the game that everyone is touching is the same ball.

—Tim Reynolds in Miami.

NHL

Q: If safe, how would play resume and when?

A: The NHL could target a late June or early July resumption of the regular season or beginning of the playoffs. League officials, coaches, general managers and players expect at least a two-week training camp before resuming play. If the NHL goes directly to playoffs, either 16 or 24 of the 31 teams would likely be involved.

Q: Where would games be held?

A: The NHL would like to use home arenas but is also considering hundreds of places to hold games at neutral sites, if need be.

Q: Would fans be allowed?

A: It would take CDC and Public Health Canada clearance for large gatherings for fans to be allowed.

Q: What would be among the upides in resuming play?

A: The playoffs could be the most competitive, with teams icing nearly complete rosters, given most players dealing with injuries will have had time to heal. NHL's two key broadcast partners, NBC and SportsNet/CBC, have a huge hole to fill in their broadcast schedules with the Summer Olympics being postponed.

Q: How late could hockey be played?

A: Potentially into September. NHL officials are focused on staging a full 82-game 2020-21 season that could start as late as mid-November with the Stanley Cup awarded in late June. At least a month's break would be required to allow for the draft and a free-agency period, and to provide players a chance to rest.

—John Wawrow in Buffalo, N.Y., and Stephen Whyno in Washington.

MLB

Q: If safe, how would play resume and when?

A: Games likely would start about three weeks after teams return to training. Teams and players have looked at the end of the 1994-95 strike as a possible model. Teams accepted the players' unconditional offer to return to work on April 2, which was the original start of the season, and opening day was pushed to April 25.

Q: Where would games be held?

A: MLB's first choice would be to play in regular-season ballparks. Uncertain whether that will be possible, teams and the players' association have discussed possibly basing all 30 teams in the Phoenix area, where they would be sequestered for an indeterminate time. There would have to be agreement on economic and logistical issues, and medical and government approvals.

Q: Would fans be allowed?

A: At regular-season ballparks, the decision likely would be a city-to-city determination, made by local and state governments. At spring training ballparks in Arizona, there likely would not be any fans and games would be played for television, streaming and radio audiences.

Q: How long of a season is needed for it to be considered legitimate?

A: There is no one answer, but the early consensus appears to be about 81, half the usual length. Teams played 103-111 games in the strike-interrupted 1981 season and 123-131 in 1918, shortened due to World War I.

Q: How would the season change?

A: Players and teams want to play as many games as possible, which would increase revenue. Look for more games per week and more doubleheaders.

—Ronald Blum in New York.

AP Sports Writer David Brandt contributed to this report.



CHRIS URSO, TAMPA BAY TIMES/TNS

Amalie Arena, home of the Tampa Bay Lightning, has been empty since the NHL paused its season.

NFL

Bengals' Taylor happy with free-agent haul

Associated Press

CINCINNATI — Cincinnati had a list of top targets heading into free agency, and coach Zac Taylor says the Bengals got the players they wanted.



Taylor

The Bengals announced Wednesday they had reached agreements with eight unrestricted free agents since the new league year started March 18, though all eight still must pass physicals. The Bengals' top targets included defensive tackle D.J. Reader and cornerback Trae Waynes as Cincinnati spent lots of money after going 2-14 in Taylor's inaugural season.

Taylor said the players Cincinnati landed in free agency speak to how the Bengals are viewed outside their own building.

"It's just encouraging to know that there's a lot of excitement building around our organization right now," Taylor said on a Zoom call with reporters.

"Guys are excited to be a part of it and look forward to getting to know those guys. Who knows the next time we'll get a chance to actually meet them physically. But it was certainly a fun process."

Next will come the NFL draft with the Bengals holding the No. 1 overall draft pick and expected to take quarterback Joe Burrow after using the franchise tag on wide receiver A.J. Green last month.

Reader was the biggest piece of Cincinnati's new free agents, agreeing to a four-year, \$53 million deal. The 6-foot-3, 347-pound tackle spent the past four years with Houston, and he has started 52 of his 61 games. He has 154 tackles with 6½ sacks in his career and was a fifth-round pick

out of Clemson in 2016. The Bengals like his versatility.

"He's great against the run, really affects the pass during the pass game. Great energy," Taylor said. "He's somebody (defensive line coach) Nick Eason has known a long time back to both their Clemson days."

Cornerback Trae Waynes agreed to a three-year contract for \$42 million. The other new Bengals include safety Vonn Bell, linebacker Josh Byrnes, cornerbacks LeShaun Sims and Mackensie Alexander, wide receiver Mike Thomas and guard Xavier Su'a-Filo.

Six of the free agents come from playoff teams this past season, which Taylor said didn't hurt either.

"When you get a guy fresh off a playoff run, that's still very fresh in his mind of how he approached the season, how they attacked it as a team," Taylor said. "It certainly helps our culture when you add guys that have recently been playing for a championship, and obviously that's where we intend to be very quickly."

Six of the free agents brought in also play defense.

Waynes had seven interceptions in his 74 games after being the 11th pick overall in 2015 out of Michigan State by Minnesota. Bell has eight sacks, seven forced fumbles and seven recovered fumbles in four seasons with New Orleans.

Byrnes, who received a one-year contract, now is with his fourth team after playing for Baltimore, Detroit and Arizona. He has 4½ career sacks, three interceptions and three forced fumbles. Sims and Alexander also are on one-year deals.

The Bengals landed Su'a-Filo with a three-year deal the day after free agency started. The 6-foot-4, 310-pound Su'a-Filo has started 53 of 75 games, starting his career with Houston before spending the past two seasons with Dallas.



DAVID T. FOSTER III, CHARLOTTE OBSERVER/TNS

Former Texans tackle D.J. Reader (98) attempts to bring down Panthers running back Christian McCaffrey during a game in Houston last season. The versatile 6-foot-3, 347-pounder joined the Cincinnati Bengals on a four-year, \$53 million deal this offseason.



BRIAN BLANCO/AP

Los Angeles Rams running back Malcolm Brown, center, is congratulated by center Austin Blythe (66) and wide receiver Robert Woods (17) following a touchdown last season. Brown will likely see a heavier workload this season after the abrupt departure of 2017 AP Offensive Player of the Year Todd Gurley.

Filling hole left by RB Gurley will be group effort for Rams

By GREG BRACHAM

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES — The Los Angeles Rams' unceremonious release of Todd Gurley left an enormous hole in the middle of their offense.

Coach Sean McVay and general manager Les Snead don't believe they can fill it with just one running back.

The Rams intend to rely less on a single ball carrier and more on a talented group of running backs in the upcoming season, McVay and Snead said Monday in their first public comments on their biggest offseason move.

"What we want to be is a team that utilizes more than just one workhorse running the ball, (has) a different genre of skill sets and a complementary-type running game," Snead said. "We have this big-picture vision, Darrell (Henderson) being a part of it, but we do expect other pieces to be a big part of it as well."

Henderson, who barely played as a rookie third-round pick last season, is the top in-house candidate to replace Gurley, one of the NFL's most productive running backs of the last half-decade. Longtime backup Malcolm Brown also returns, and Snead indicated the Rams will be looking hard at running backs in the draft.

Running the ball by committee will be a major change for the Rams, who had Gurley at the center of everything for the past five years.

"We certainly don't replace the production, the way that he's influenced and affected the game," McVay said. "But what we can continue to do is try to adjust and adapt."

Gurley, the AP's 2017 Offensive Player of the Year, leads the NFL with 58 rushing touchdowns



ALEX DAVIDSON, GETTY IMAGES/TNS

The Rams see second-year RB Darrell Henderson Jr. as the top in-house candidate to replace departed All-Pro Todd Gurley.

since joining the league in 2015. His 5,404 yards rushing in that stretch are 1 yard behind Ezekiel Elliott for the league lead.

That's an awful lot of production to replace, even after Gurley's numbers declined last season amid concerns about his left knee. The Rams were compelled by payroll constraints and Gurley's waning production to release him March 19 before he even got to the first season of his four-year, \$60 million contract extension — the largest in NFL history for a running back when he agreed to it in 2018.

That deal, which included \$45 million in guarantees, will loom as one of the biggest tactical mistakes of Snead's eight-year tenure. But the GM still feels he did the right thing overall in paying his highly productive star.

"From a regret standpoint,

there's no way you can ever regret the yards he gained, the touchdowns he scored for us," Snead said. "The championships, whether it's two division titles or (the) conference championship. The Super Bowl appearance. That will be tough to regret. What I can say is, obviously I think we all wish the partnership could have lasted longer. But from a standpoint of Todd earning that contract, no, he did earn that."

The Atlanta Falcons scooped up Gurley with a one-year, \$6 million deal announced Monday.

Gurley had his two best NFL seasons during McVay's first two years in charge. Gurley rushed for a combined 2,556 yards in 2017 and 2018 while ranking among the league leaders in touches for his young head coach.

McVay said he never could have imagined being without Gurley at this point in their careers even a year ago. The coach faces a new challenge in the upcoming season without Gurley to rely upon — although in retrospect, that transition already began last year.

When Gurley's touches and production declined last season, McVay steadfastly claimed Gurley was healthy and capable of doing whatever the Rams needed, even after Los Angeles finished with the NFL's 26th-ranked rushing offense behind an injury-riddled offensive line.

"There's a lot of things that went into (Gurley's release), but at the end of the day, this guy has been instrumental in helping create a lot of the good things that are going on in our building," McVay said. "Think he'll do a good job for the Falcons, but in a lot of ways, it is a reflection on the confidence that we had in those guys that are in place with Darrell Henderson, with Malcolm Brown."

NFL

Brady says It was 'just time' to leave Pats

By FRED GOODALL
Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. — Tom Brady entered his final season in New England with a strong inkling that it would be his last with the Patriots.

The six-time Super Bowl champion who signed with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in free agency last month said Wednesday on SiriusXM's "The Howard Stern Show" it was "just time" for a change, reiterating he has no hard feelings about coach Bill Belichick not making him a Patriot for life.

"I think he has a lot of loyalty and I think he and I have had a lot of conversations that nobody's ever been privy to, and nor should they be," Brady told Stern during a wide-ranging interview lasting more than two hours.

"So many wrong assumptions were made about our relationship, or about how he felt about me. I know genuinely how he feels about me," the four-time Super Bowl MVP added.

"Now I'm not going to respond to every rumor or assumption that's made other than what his responsibility as coach is to try to get the best player for the team, not only in the short term, but in the long term as well."

With Brady and Belichick leading the way, the Patriots won 17 division titles and appeared in nine Super Bowls and 13 AFC championship games over the past 20 years.

Brady, who will turn 43 in August, said he entered "uncharted territory as an athlete" when he continued to perform at a high level in recent years.

"I was an older athlete, and he started to plan for the future, which is what his responsibility

is. And I don't fault him for that," Brady said of Belichick. "That's what he should be doing. That's what every coach should be doing."

Brady signed a two-year, \$50 million contract with the Bucs last month, joining a team with the worst winning percentage in league history.

Tampa Bay hasn't made the playoffs since 2007 and doesn't have a postseason win since its lone Super Bowl championship run 18 years ago.

"I never cared about legacy. ... I never once, when I was in high school, said, 'Man, I can't wait for what my football legacy looks like.' I mean, that's just not me. That's not my personality. So why would I choose a different place? It's because it was just time. I don't know what to say other than that," Brady said.

"I had done everything. I accomplished everything. I could in two decades with an incredible organization, an incredible group of people. That will never change," the three-time NFL MVP said. "And no one can ever take that away from me. No one can ever take those experiences or Super Bowl championships away from us."

Brady also talked about moving his family into a furnished mansion he's renting from Derek Jeter in Tampa, as well as his marriage to supermodel Gisele Bündchen, trying marijuana and alcohol as a teenager but not enjoying the lifestyle, and his college career at Michigan.

The quarterback also spoke in detail about his decision to skip OTAs in recent years with the Patriots after reading a letter from his wife, who at the time was unhappy with his being away from home so much in the offseason.



ELISE AMENDOLA/AP

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady holds a Super Bowl trophy beside others the team previously has won during a 2017 rally in Boston to celebrate the team's 34-28 win over the Atlanta Falcons in Super Bowl 51.



STEVEN SENNE/AP

Coach Sean McDermott and his Buffalo Bills may have the best chance of overtaking the New England Patriots in the AFC East. The Bills went 10-7 last season, their best season since 1999.

Dolphins, Jets, Bills see hope in Brady's departure from AFC East

By STEVEN WINE
Associated Press

MIAMI — The biggest free-agent deal for the Miami Dolphins this offseason has been one they didn't make.

The Dolphins spent more than \$237 million last month and signed seven potential starters. But none will help their chances of overtaking the Patriots in the AFC East as much as Tom Brady did by bolting from New England to Tampa Bay.

The 6-foot-4 Brady loomed large in the division for two decades, dominating the Dolphins and the other perennial also-rans, the Buffalo Bills and New York Jets.

And now he's gone. This is no April Fool's joke: Just like Elvis has left building, Tom has left the division — the entire conference, in fact.

"It'll certainly be different," Brady said.

The Dolphins, Bills and Jets sure hope so. Each is eager to seize center stage.

The Patriots have won the division 17 times in the 19 seasons since Brady became their starting quarterback. The exceptions were 2002, when the Jets finished first with a 9-7 record, and 2008, when Brady suffered a season-ending knee injury in Week 1 and Miami took the division title.

The Bills and Dolphins haven't won a postseason game since Brady made his first career start in 2001. The Jets haven't been to the playoffs since the 2010 season.

So what do they think about playing in a division without the three-time NFL MVP?

"Ha, ha. I mean, I'm not going to frown about it, you know?" Bills safety Jordan Poyer said. "He has been there for 20 years, and it's going to be different faces in the East now. Whoever wants it is just going to go get it. Obviously with Tom Brady gone, that's a huge, huge deal."

Fans agree. "Pretty crazy to not imagine him as a Patriot," said Buffalo Sabres captain Jack Eichel, who grew up in the Boston area a Patriots fan. "But, hey, go Bills. Go Bucs."

Even during a pandemic, Brady's uniform switch was front-page news, with lots of subsequent talk that the Patriots are now "just another team."

The Patriots understand. "Especially now, you have a lot of time to be on Twitter and stuff, so a lot of what I've seen is just people tweeting me like, 'Enjoy what you guys had, it's over, you guys won't win a game,'" New England safety Devin McCourty said.

"I think that's natural, though. I think if I was a fan and I watched the team and watched a guy for a long time and he left and he was so great, I would say that team is going to be terrible, too. That's expected."

The 2020 Patriots probably likely won't be ter-

rible — after all, they still have Bill Belichick. But they do need a quarterback with Jarrett Stidham, Cody Kessler and Brian Hoyer the choices on the current roster.

So who's the best quarterback in the AFC East now? While Belichick must replace perhaps the greatest of all time, the Bills believe they have a franchise QB in Josh Allen. Ditto the Jets with Sam Darnold. The Dolphins, with the fifth pick in the

draft and three selections in the first round, hope to land a keeper at QB this month.

"It's a new season," said Ted Karras, a former Patriots center who signed last month with Miami. "We've got as good of a shot as anybody else in the division."

Not necessarily. The team that appears closest to overtaking New England is the Bills, who went 10-7 last season, their best record since 1999. They have a sense of stability for a change with Sean McDermott entering his fourth year as coach, and they're especially eager to

embrace this new era in the AFC East after going 3-32 against Brady.

The Dolphins are rebuilding under second-year coach Brian Flores, who used a league-record 84 players last season and miraculously won five games. Heavy roster turnover will likely continue for at least another year, and Flores' long-term fate rests largely on whom Miami drafts at QB.

The Jets also remain a team in progress under general manager Joe Douglas, who is in his first full offseason, and second-year coach Adam Gase. They need a left tackle, a go-to receiver and — most of all — further development by Darnold.

The Patriots, meanwhile, have been hit hard in free agency, and not just at quarterback. Among those departing was linebacker Kyle Van Noy, who split for Miami but tapped the brakes on the notion the Patriots have fallen out of the mix in the East.

"They'll always be the Patriots, with the kind of players they have up there," Van Noy said. "They still have a really good set of football players up there that love football, that are going to be hungry to prove to a lot of people that they're still in it."

The Dolphins, Jets and Bills still have to play New England twice a year. But they don't have to play against Brady in 2020 — at least not until the Super Bowl. He's the NFC South's problem now.

Dennis Waskaz Jr., Kyle Hightower and John Wawro of the Associated Press contributed to this report.

'(Brady) has been there for 20 years, and it's going to be different faces in the East now.'

Jordan Poyer
Bills safety

NFL

Redskins weighing options

BY STEPHEN WHYNO
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It has long seemed like a virtual certainty that the Redskins will take Chase Young with the second pick in the NFL Draft.

If the Cincinnati Bengals select LSU quarterback Joe Burrow first overall as expected, the Ohio State pass-rusher and Heisman Trophy finalist would fall into Washington's lap.

The Redskins have taken calls about trading down, but the smart money's still on them sticking at No. 2 and plugging Young into their lineup.

New coach Ron Rivera said on a video call Tuesday, "I'd like to believe in the

back of my mind I know what we want to do," and laid out the ramifications of trading back versus getting someone who can help right away.

"If you're going to make a trade and you're going to go back, that guy you're going to take at that spot has to be able to make the kind of impact you need to validate missing an opportunity to take a player that's a high-impact guy," Rivera said. "You've got to be able to sit there and say that the next guy that I'm going to take is going to be that high-impact guy, and that's what I'm looking for. That's what I believe we need is we need a guy that's going to come in and really change our football team."

Young fits that bill. The D.C.-area native had 46 tackles and 16½ sacks during his junior season at Ohio State and would provide a big boost to a defense that ranked sixth-worst in the league in 2019.

Rivera already acquired quarterback Kyle Allen from his old team, the Carolina Panthers, and there's a vow factor to taking Alabama's Tua Tagovailoa that would ft owner Dan Snyder's persona. But Snyder is a big proponent of 2019 first-rounder Dwayne Haskins, and Tagovailoa might be more attractive to another team interested in trading up.

Rivera said he sees only a few players in the draft as immediate-impact rookies.

"If you're going to pass up Player A and you go back and you're going to take Player D, Player D has to be equal to Player A," Rivera said. "Because if Player A is going to play for you for 10 years and Player D may not, then did you really get value or did you just get a whole bunch of picks?"

Washington doesn't have a second-round pick after trading into the first round last year to take edge rusher Monte Sweat. Rivera said trying to acquire a new second-round pick is a possibility that he and vice president of player personnel Kyle Smith are evaluating.

"There's a lot to think about," Rivera said. "We've talked as a group the last three days, four days, about what everybody needs to be ready to happen."



ALONZO ADAMS/AP

Former Oklahoma RB Marcelis Sutton makes a catch during Pro Day drills for NFL scouts and coaches in Norman, Okla.

Changes: Cancellations put some draft prospects in limbo

FROM BACK PAGE

effort to sell the players who didn't get a chance to work out in front of NFL scouts.

Even agents find themselves playing new roles.

"I feel like more of a mental health counselor than ever before because some of these kids have been so stressed out to not have the opportunity to showcase what they've worked for their whole life," said David Moreno, who represents about 10 pro prospects.

Everybody agrees that top-tier players such as Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow or defensive end Chase Young won't be hurt by the cancellations. They did enough in their college careers — and it's all on tape. Plus, they met with team officials and went through the medical checks at the NFL's annual scouting combine in Indianapolis.

Some players with medical concerns, such as Tua Tagovailoa, the 2018 Heisman Trophy runner-up, or Colorado receiver Laviska Shenault Jr., probably won't see a precipitous drop in their stock, either.

And those who competed in college all-star games but didn't receive a combine invite, like Indiana receiver Nick Westbrook, also have the advantage of performing in front of scouts.

Many others find themselves in limbo. "I just feel horrible for all these kids that aren't combine guys and put in all this work and now they're just kind of stuck," agent Ron Slavin said.

The stories are endless.

Slavin represents eight draft-eligible players, including Houston punter Dane Roy, who returned home to Australia for his wedding before the school's March 31 workout was called off. Roy doesn't know when he'll be back in the U.S.

Westbrook was working out in Seattle — until the pandemic started shutting down the city. So the Indiana receiver moved in with his parents in Florida but has since struggled to find a workout facility.

Lehigh's top receiver, Devon Bibbens ac-



JOHN AMIS/AP

Georgia coach Kirby Smart, left, and New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick talk during Pro Day in Athens, Ga., last month. Some college coaches are making a more concerted effort to sell players who didn't get to work out in front of NFL scouts.

tually missed out on three pro days — two at Temple and another at Delaware. He's also back home in Pennsylvania, using his old high-school regimen to stay in shape.

"I'm lucky enough that I have some equipment in my garage — dumbbells, a barbell, a pull-up bar, field equipment. My high school has a hill," Bibbens said. "These are the workouts I did in high school, so getting back to those things is honestly kind of fun."

Still, nothing can really replace missing time in front of NFL scouts. So coaches are pitching in.

Illinois was one of the few major schools to conduct a pro day before travel restrictions were imposed, so coach Lovie Smith has spent his days responding to follow-up questions.

At Georgia, coach Kirby Smart said he's been contacted personally by five NFL

teams and answers text messages daily in an effort to help his players, especially those under the radar.

"The guys that didn't get to go to the combine that are really football players, I worry for them, for their sake," Smart said. "You feel good when you go out there and you go perform, whether you perform good or bad, you feel good that you got your opportunity."

But Polian has a reassuring message for borderline prospects: NFL teams have been unearthing talent for decades, many years with no combine and no pro days.

"That's why we have scouts," he said. "They've seen the player up close and personal and can do a pretty good assessment of all the measurables and the physical. If they need additional information, I'm sure the school will give it to them. ... If you have good scouts, you're in great shape."

SPORTS



Looking for closure

LeBron hoping Lakers get chance to finish what they started » **NBA, Page 51**

NFL DRAFT

BACK TO BASICS



Pro day cancellations forcing changes to draft process

By MICHAEL MAROT
Associated Press

BILL Polian simplified the NFL's draft process years ago.

He studied film, relied on medical experts, checked the numbers and interviewed players.

With the flurry of canceled pro days, the Hall of Famer who constructed multiple Super Bowl teams during his 32-year career believes it's time for a return to his throwback approach.

"Really all you need, and it's especially true in a time like today, you need the game film, the physical exam, which may be difficult to get right now, and the measurables," he told The Associated Press. "So if a player has been to the combine, that's all you really need. If a player hasn't been to the combine or is from a small school, then you've just got to go on the game film and you'd be slightly less accurate."

"And the people who haven't done it as long as I did are



Polian

probably a little discombobulated about that right now."

Younger scouts, front-office executives and even coaches find themselves coping with a whole new process with Americans hunkering down and doctors overwhelmed by the mounting cases of COVID-19.

Gone for the most part this year are access to in-person interviews, campus workouts and visits to team headquarters. Also gone are some of

the numbers garnered at pro days decision makers like to crunch as they become increasingly reliant upon advanced metrics.

That combination has forced everyone to rethink how they do business:

- Zoom and Skype meetings have become commonplace.
- Draft prospects are offering to send homemade videos of workouts and drills to NFL teams.
- Some college coaches are making a more concerted

SEE CHANGES ON PAGE 55

Inside: Redskins weigh drafting DE Young vs. trading down, Page 55

Above: Clemson football player Tee Higgins lifts weights during NFL Pro Day on March 12 in Clemson, S.C.

Richard Shiro / AP

TO OUR READERS

As the sports world pauses to join the rest of the world in fighting the coronavirus pandemic, you will see fewer sports stories in Stars and Stripes. We look forward to resuming our normal coverage when the leagues and governing bodies determine it is safe for athletes and fans to return to competition.

